Sandwell
CHRONICLE

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Singer kept foot down despite BMW's blown tyres

117 MPH DRUNKEN CROONER IS JAILED

Report by John Scott

A DRUNKEN professional singer, who put on a terrifying performance as he reached speeds of up to 117 mph in a bid to outrun police cars, has been locked up.

Peter Wayre was still driving at 97 mph after two of his BMW's tyres were punctured by a spikes on a police stinger, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Jailed – Peter Wayre

The 1940s-style crooner continued to speed as part of the car fell off after crashing into a barrier and the tyres disintegrated, trailing a shower of sparks as it travelled on the metal rim of at least one wheel, said prosecutor Mr Peter Grice.

The drama started after an unmarked police car spotted the 35-year-old driving too fast on Darlaston Road, Wednesbury after performing in the area on June 18. The officers indicated they wanted him to stop but he ignored the flashing lights while accelerating to 55mph in a 30 limit on the way to Junction 9 of the M6 where the car hit the roundabout barrier.

It hurtled south shadowed by several police cars – the windscreen of one was hit by debris from the BMW – until it turned off onto the Aston Expressway which it left after a short distance to rejoin in the opposite direction as it returned to the M6, explained Mr Grice. It left at Junction 11 where the 'stinger' was laid by police on the exit roundabout but he continued onto the M54 to head back southbound on the M6 until he took the Junction 9 exit and was forced to stop, added the prosecutor. The defendant blew a reading of 50 micrograms of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath. The legal limit is 35.

Miss Nicole Steers, defending Wayre, said: "He has no recollection as to where he went. He had left his hotel to get something to eat when he saw an unmarked car flash its lights, panicked and made off. He is deeply ashamed of the appalling driving."

Wayre from Wadsworth Street, Halifax had a previous conviction for harassment and pleaded guilty to dangerous driving, drink driving and causing criminal damage while having neither insurance nor a valid licence. Jailing him for six months with a two year driving ban on release, Judge Jinder Singh Boora said of the CCTV footage: "What I saw is as bad as driving can get."

PRINCE UNVEILS STATUE TO 'BRITISH SCHINDLER'

Shortly after carrying out the unveiling ceremony, Prince William seen in a moment of reflection

Meeting youngsters who turned out to greet him

The prince in the park with dignitaries

HE risked his own life to save thousands of Jews fromNazi Germany – and now a Black Country war hero has been honoured with a statue, unveiled by the future King of England.

The statue in memory of Major Frank Foley CMG in Mary Stevens Park, in Stourbridge, was unveiled by the Duke of Cambridge at a special event on Tuesday afternoon.

Prince William met members of Major Foley's family, alongside descendants of some of the people he saved, as well as Dudley North MP Ian Austin and representatives of the Holocaust Educational Trust – who have worked together to spearhead the campaign to honour Major Foley.

The statue has been sculpted by the Birmingham-based artist Andy DeComyn. The design is a life-size replica of Major Foley, featuring him sitting on a park bench dressed in a suit, replicating how he would look in the 1930s as a spy. He is feeding a bird, symbolising freedom and the people he helped, with a briefcase hinting at his MI6 work.

Major Foley used his position as a passport controller at the British Embassy to bend the rules to save Jews from the concentration camps.

Dubbed the 'British Schindler' he hid escapees in his own home. It is believed he saved more than 10,000 Jews from the gas chambers. He retired to Stourbridge where he lived at Eveson Road, in Norton, until his death in 1958 at the age of 73.

Born in 1884, Major Foley worked for the Foreign Office and became Head of the British Passport Control Office in Germany in the 1930s. As he watched Adolf Hitler's rise to power, he realised Jewish families were vulnerable.

During his work as a passport officer, he interpreted rules on visas loosely and even forged passports enabling people to escape to Britain and Palestine. In 2010, Major Foley was named a British Hero of the Holocaust by the British Government.

POLICE

Jamieson says he'll be stepping down

POLICE and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson has announced he is unlikely to run for office again at the end of his current term. The Labour West Midlands PCC, first elected to the role in August 2014, said there was a 'near to zero' chance of him standing as a candidate at the next scheduled election in 2020. The role is in line to be scrapped by then under Government plans to combine its duties with those of the West Midlands Mayor.

Mr Jamieson

At last week's West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) board meeting, Mr Jamieson, 71, said: "By 2020, I will have done 51 years in public services in one way or another. I somehow think that it might be time for somebody else to pick up the baton."

EDUCATION

Applications now due for schools

PARENTS and carers in Sandwell can now apply for school places if their child is due to start high school or reception in September 2019.

Schools in Sandwell are holding a number of open evenings to help parents and children choose the best school for them. Applications can be made online at: www.sandwell.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Applications for secondary school places need to be made before Wednesday October 31, and for primary schools, before Tuesday January 15, 2019.

DEVELOPMENT

Paradise bill on rise

THE costs of the ambitious Birmingham city centre Paradise development have increased by £100 million according to reports.

The Municipal Journal stated the costs of the of project, last thought to be around £700m, have spiralled. The 1.8 million square foot Paradise development is set to deliver offices, bars, cafes, restaurants and a four-star 250-bedroom hotel.

INSIDE

Growing interest in Halloween . . .

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Hospice celebrates milestone in style

Campaign – Sarah Bowron

ACORNS Children's Hospice has hit the road in style as part of a project to celebrate its 30th birthday. The charity's unmissable bright orange 1980s-themed caravan has been touring cities and towns across the region collecting childhood memories from people and will be in Walsall town centre today, Thursday.

Campaign manager Sarah Bowron said: "We want as many people as possible to drop by the caravan, which will be pitched in Park Street all day. Whether you want to share your thoughts and memories of Acorns, or whether you just want to tell us what it was like growing up in and around Birmingham, come and drop by.

"Tell us what you did. What TV programs you watched. What your favourite sweets were. We're really looking forward to hearing what people say." The Acorns Story Box Project, made possible with £34,700 from the Heritage Lottery Fund, will also see selected Acorns shops host drop-in sessions to collect stories, some of which will be included in a commemorative exhibition in early 2019.

Sarah added: "Thanks to this grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, we have been given the opportunity to preserve our fascinating history for future generations – and we want local people to get involved. As well as featuring some of the best interviews on our website, you may even get to feature in our commemorative exhibition at the end of the year alongside groundbreaking moments from our past."

It costs the charity nearly £10 million every year to provide its services and it relies on fundraising for the bulk of that amount. This year marks the 30th anniversary of Princess Diana officially opening the first Acorns Hospice in Selly Oak. See www.acorns.org.uk/StoryBox.

New hotel pays homage to area's industrial past

A NEW hotel in Oldbury has officially opened its doors to the public – and its smart interior pays homage to the town's coal mining history.

Ibis Styles, based in Birmingham Road, is now taking guests and bosses hope visitors will be impressed with the cleverly thought-out and historical design.

The hotel takes the best bits of Oldbury's history and mixes them with some truly modern twists.

A white, black and grey colour pallet is used throughout the building, as well as exposed brickwork, wood and metals.

Industrial-themed iron signs and metal wall lights offer a contemporary historical edge, as does the cobble street printed carpet which can be seen in the corridors. The overall design buzzes with the energy of a friendly and bustling factory floor.

Gurjit Mahal, owner of the hotel, said: "We are delighted to open the doors of ibis Styles Birmingham Oldbury and greet guests with a warm welcome. The hotel's distinctive design makes it a must visit venue in Oldbury – old meets new in this Black Country themed contemporary hotel."

The hotel has 75 bedrooms, including three family rooms. A continental breakfast buffet is included in the room rate and complimentary car parking is available for all guests.

James Wheatcroft, vice president of marketing at Accorhotels which owns Ibis, said: "Classic industrial finishes rub shoulders with bright modern colours and shapes – even the most brief of stays will leave a lasting impression.

"The hotel is a fantastic addition to the portfolio."

There is also a ground floor restaurant with a steakhouse style menu, buffet, and children's menu. Overnight stays start from just £59 for a double room, bed and breakfast. Visit ibis.com for details.

Picking up on town's litter problem

Front, from left, Councillor David Hosell, volunteer Paul Mason and Councillor Bill Cherrington, along with fellow councillors and volunteers

A NEW volunteer project has been launched to help tackle litter in Smethwick. Families at the Bangladeshi Islamic Centre, joined in a litter pick in Lewisham Road to officially launch the Community Litterpicking Project.

The project seeks to recruit at least one volunteer group in each of Sandwell's six towns helping out with litter picking at green spaces and community areas.

There will also be talks and recycling workshops at schools. Councillor Bill Cherrington, Sandwell Council's environment champion, said: "We know litter is a key concern for people so we've linked up with Litterwatch, our waste partner Serco and the local community to see what more can be done.

"With this project, we are building on our very successful annual Big Spring Clean campaign to harness the enthusiasm of local community volunteers who've told us they want to get more involved.

"This is on top of our existing cleansing service provided by our waste partner Serco, which will provide the equipment to volunteers and dispose of the litter collected from public land. Protecting the environment is everyone's business and I would like to thank everyone who's doing their bit for a cleaner borough."

The project, which will initially run until March 2019.

Lorries may be restricted to one M6 lane in plan

TRAFFIC could be stopped from joining the M6 at Walsall and lorries restricted to using one lane of the motorway – two ideas being looked at as part of a study on the region's road network.

A 'shared occupancy' lane on the M6 is also being considered in the Midlands Motorway Hub study by Midlands Connect, which oversees transport, infrastructure and development.

Head of technical programmes, Simon Statham, said the project was aimed improving journey times and road safety as well as powering economic growth.

In a presentation to members of the West Midlands Combined Authority Transport Delivery Committee, Mr Statham said: "We have identified things to improve the flow.

"They include restrictions at Junction 9 [for Walsall and Wednesbury] but then we do need to understand the wider impact on the network – what will happen to the surrounding areas? Another idea is an HGV lane so they are not overtaking each other on the motorway."

Julian Pottinger, Director of Little Pot Travel, a haulage firm based in Oldbury, said: "I'd be interested in seeing more detail on the idea of a Western Strategic Route linking the M5 and M6, but I'm glad that Midlands Connect is looking at shorter term, quick wins as well."

Funerals home is reopened

A REVAMPED funerals home was reopened at a special ceremony. Funeral director David Wilkes and his team were joined by local clergy and members of the public at the Co-op Funeral Care in Shirley, Solihull.

Mr Wilkes said: "Our first priority is to enhance memories and love for all of our families and we are very pleased to offer that at Co-operative Funeral Care.

"We feel it reflects our commitment to providing excellent standards of care for our families during their time of bereavement.

"We would like to thank local clergy for leading the dedication service and coming along to officially open the site. We all appreciate the time they have put aside out of their busy schedules to help us mark this occasion."

Frozen food giant opens inside Range

SIXTEEN new jobs have been created as Iceland opened its doors at The Range.

The store opened in Longacres Industrial Estate, Willenhall, last Thursday. It is one of three UK branches of The Range that the frozen food giant will be opening in.

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Travellers moved on within a few hours

TWO separate traveller camps were moved on from Sandwell – within five hours of arriving in the borough.

Three caravans were moved on by council and police officers from land in High Street, Smethwick, on Thursday afternoon.

A section 62 notice was served on the group, who declined use of Sandwell Council's transit site. They were moved on within three hours.

While, later that evening, another group with four caravans moved on to Ashtree Playing Fields in Old Hill.

The council's environmental protection officers and police visited the site and offered the group the use of the transit site – warning them that refusal of the offer would mean they would have to leave the borough or face arrest. The transit site requires groups to pay a deposit per caravan and a weekly rent.

Two of the four caravans were moved, while a section 62 notice was issued on the group in the final two caravans. They left the site by 8.30pm and the site has been secured with a concrete barrier.

Councillor Paul Moore, cabinet member for regeneration and economy, said: "This yet again shows how effective our partnership with the police and the transit site is proving.

"I'd like to thank council officers and police for their swift actions to move on these groups."

Winning trio in postcode boost

THREE lucky West Bromwich neighbours were celebrating after scooping £1,000 each in the People's Postcode Lottery.

The neighbours in Peppercorn Place, coined in the cash when their lucky postcode B70 8SL was drawn as the winner of the Daily Prize on Friday. Danyl Johnson, People's Postcode Lottery ambassador, said: "There's nothing nicer than seeing neighbours win together and I'm sure they'll have a great time splashing out with their windfall."

A minimum of 32 per cent of ticket sales goes directly to charities and players. The Friends of Dartmouth Park was awarded £1,400 last year as part of the scheme, to set up a fishing club.

Ramblers set out

WEST Bromwich Ramblers will be heading out on six and eight mile circular walks, starting from Wolverley, on Sunday. The coach will depart from West Bromwich Town Hall at 9am. For details call 0121 3586591.

Helping bring music into people's lives

One of the charity's sessions

OPTIONS for Life, a Sandwell learning disabilities and/or autism charity, has been awarded £18,000 to develop technology to help people with severe disabilities make music.

The technology will help the charity, which supports over 160 individuals in the Black Country and Staffordshire, convert physical movements into musical sounds to help its participants overcome restrictions that prevent them experiencing music in traditional ways.

The project has been made possible thanks to Postcode Community Trust, a grant-giving charity funded entirely by players of the People's Postcode Lottery.

Running over the next 12 months, the charity will develop a prototype using Arduino microprocessors – exciting new tech which can be used to turn anything from Coke cans to bananas into musical instruments.

Options for Life hope their design will open a huge range of benefits for those with profound and multiple learning disabilities, many of whom are wheelchair-bound, with highly restricted movement and speech. Alongside well-documented mental health benefits, musical expression can help non-verbal users communicate.

Tom Peel, the charity's music development worker, describes how 'wearable tech will help us turn a range of unique movements into sound so that participants can begin to understand, and potentially become aware of, the musical effects of their movements'.

He added: "This awareness and control over the musical environment will help participants feel empowered and included in ways they may not have been before."

Hundreds of extra places in pipeline for academy

HUNDREDS of extra school places could be created at an Oldbury school in the next year.

Sandwell Council bosses were expected to approve funding to extend Q3 Academy in Langley when they met last night, Wednesday, to provide 480 new school places.

The project was scheduled for completion in September 2019 to support the projected shortfall in secondary school places in the Sandwell borough – and would include the construction of three additional blocks to the main school building.

But following the Government's zero announcement on Basic Need funding, officers have had to review plans. The proposed second phase will now be to build one block to accommodate both general and specialist teaching areas to support key stage four option subjects for years 10 and 11.

Subject to further funding announcements, a further third phase will be required to build the remaining two school blocks.

Children's services chief, Councillor Simon Hackett, said: "Work on the second phase of Q3 Langley will begin shortly and is due to be completed in time for September 2019 when a further 240 students will start in Year 7. We are working closely with the academy leadership team on this project, which will help provide much-needed school places for local families."

The report states: "It is currently projected that an additional 3,845 places will be required in secondary schools by September 2025. Previously approved capital projects to provide a total of 840 new secondary school places have now been completed at Q3 Academy Langley (phase one); Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy, Oldbury; and RSA Academy, Tipton.

"Funding to deliver 1,045 new school places at George Salter Academy, Shireland Collegiate Academy, Wood Green Academy and St Michael's Church of England High School, has been approved by cabinet to meet the continuing demand for new places."

Currently the school has nearly 400 students in Years 7 and 8 and will eventually accommodate 1,500 students.

Building is revived as cafe opens

Councillor Angela Underhill, Sharon Felton and Councillor Rose Burley enjoy a cuppa at the cafe

A NEW cafe has opened in Darlaston Town Hall after a £40,000 revamp. The Grade II listed hall was at risk of closing but the charity Darlaston All Active took over the lease last year. Now the cafe has reopened to the public.

The cafe has created two-part time jobs in the area. Project manager Sharon Felton said: "It has taken a lot of work but we are very pleased with the end result.

"Our main aim is to serve the community and all the money spent in the cafe goes back into our charity work.

"People need to know there is a beautiful community kitchen here for them. We want people to come in and have a bite to eat and hopefully it will help target isolation."

Walsall Council started looking for a community group to take over the site two years ago.

Initially, they approved a 25-year lease to see Murray Hall Community Trust take over the

NEWS IN BRIEF

Drivers snared in police operation

ELEVEN drivers were snared outside of a Black Country fire station in just two hours as part of a police operation.

Of those stopped outside of Smethwick Fire Station, on Stony Lane, West Midlands Police found six were not insured correctly – with one motorist not wearing their seatbelt.

One man was also arrested for driving while disqualified. The operation, led by Pc Mark Hodson, saw the majority of drivers pulled over found to be on their mobile phones.

Drivers were also given a speed and eyesight awareness check to see if they should be behind the wheel.

Man who died in M1 crash named

A MAN who died following a crash on the M1 has been named as 24-year-old Frazer Gray from Walsall.

Mr Gray, from Pelsall, was the driver of a black Audi A3 which left the carriageway between junctions 20 and 21 during the early hours of Sunday. His car came to rest on an embankment but when Mr Gray got out of the car, he was then hit by a silver Ford Fiesta. He was taken to hospital but died shortly after.

Anyone with any information is asked to contact Leicester serious collision investigation police on 101, quoting incident 48 of September 9.

You Me At Six to play set in HMV

YOU Me At Six will appear at a Birmingham record storefollowing the release of their forthcoming new album VI. The Surrey quintet will visit HMV to sign copies of the new album for fans, as well as perform an acoustic set. The group will also play Birmingham's O2 Academy on November 22 as part of their UK headline tour to promote the album.

You Me At Six formed in 2004 and are best known for songs such as Save It For The Bedroom, Liquid Confidence, Loverboy, and Bite My Tongue. The band is at HMV on October 8.

Beacon focuses on eye health at Merry Hill

LEADING Black Country sight loss charity Beacon has joined forces with intu Merry Hill to help shoppers understand the importance of eye health.

It comes at the same time as National Eye Health Week which runs from September 24 to 30. All next week, shoppers will have the chance to learn about living with sight loss and how to support loved ones to live full and active lives by visiting the Beacon stand, on the lower mall near M&S.

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COUNTY NEWS

Region is shown to have heart of gold

PEOPLE in the West Midlands have hearts of gold, according to a British Heart Foundation survey.

The figures show that over half (51 per cent) want to be remembered for their kindness above all else, while a third (33 per cent) want to be remembered for their family values and humour is important to more than a quarter (29 per cent).

Materialistic and professional achievements are valued less. Just one in eight (13 per cent) want to be remembered for their work and only a quarter want to be remembered for their wealth. Three quarters wished they could do more to help others.

£500 grants for outdoor learning

SCHOOLS are being encouraged to apply for up to £500 worth of free outdoor learning resources, enabling children to get hands-on with nature.

Applications for the Local School Nature Grants are open from now up until November 30, with £550,000 in total up for grabs.

As well as receiving up to £500 worth of outdoor resources, schools will also receive a two-hour training session for staff on how to getting the most out of the equipment.

For more information and to apply for funding, visit the Learning through Landscapes website at ltl.org.uk/naturegrants/guidance.php.

Homeserve in search for staff

HOME assistance company HomeServe is holding two recruitment open days at its headquarters in Walsall. The business is seeking new customer service advisers and sales representatives to join its team.

The open days are at the offices in Cable Drive, today, Thursday, between 5pm and 8pm and Saturday, September 29, between 10am and 2pm. People are being invited to come along with the CV for interview. There is a starting salary of £18,200.

Memories of child migration recorded

PEOPLE originating from more than 30 different countries came together to celebrate the culmination of a project that has collected stories of child migration from the 1930s to 2015.

The Birmingham project began in May 2017, with individuals who had migrated to the city from all corners of the world interviewed.

The documents will be archived in the New Library of Birmingham.

Inquest into nurse's murder delayed

AN inquest into the brutal rape and murder of a district nurse has been postponed in order for a 'thorough and fearless' investigation to take place, a coroner has ruled.

A full inquiry into the death of 37-year-old Lisa Skidmore, who was strangled in her Bilston home by Leroy Campbell after he climbed through her bedroom window, was due to start in November.

But failures by the prison service, parole board and West Midlands Police to disclose crucial information to the coroner and the Skidmore family's lawyers has led to 'frustrating' delays.

At a preliminary review held at Oldbury last Thursday, Black Country coroner Zafar Siddique said that, realistically, the inquest would not now take place until the new year.

Speaking at the hearing, 81-year-old Mrs Margaret Skidmore, Lisa's mother, said she felt the family's rights were being overlooked. Asking for her patience, Mr Siddique said: "It's been a very long journey for you and the family but these things cannot be rushed."

The news follows Wednesday's damning report into 'appalling mistakes' by the probation service in the case, particularly the failure to recall Campbell after he spoke of wanting to rape again. Sonia Crozier, head of the probation service, said she was 'deeply ashamed'.

Pre-inquest hearings have been called to decide on the scope of the investigation, which the family initially requested should include Campbell's management in jail and the parole board's decision in 2014 to move him to an open prison.

Black Country heroes recognised for efforts

Report by Dayna Farrington

THEY are the best of the Black Country – and now they have been recognised for their hard work and dedication to their communities.

Six people from the region – including two cousins – were among those honoured with a British Empire Medal (BEM) award at a ceremony at Birmingham Council House last Wednesday.

The recipients were presented with the awards by West Midlands Lord Lieutenant John Crabtree OBE, after being named in the New Year's Honours and Queen's Birthday Honours.

Historian Terence Price, from West Bromwich, has been awarded a BEM for his services to his community. Apart from successfully campaigning to prevent demolition of buildings such as Hill House and Farley fountain, the 79-year-old researched and found West Bromwich's first War Memorial, which was hidden in Heath Lane Cemetery.

An avid collector of old photos and postcards, he has published eight books, five on West Bromwich and three on Great Bridge, all of which were best sellers. Money from the sale of his books have been ploughed into restoration projects and community initiatives. He also served 19 years as a West Bromwich magistrate.

He said: "I was greatly honoured to be awarded the BEM. I am very proud of being a West Bromwich man born and bred."

His cousin, 74-year-old Pauline Hodgetts, from Tipton, has been honoured for her passion for the town and its heritage. She created a memorial garden and stone to commemorate the life and athletic achievements of Jack Holden, the marathon runner; restored the drinking fountain in Victoria Park and is chairman of the cemetery group that worked hard to get a British Legion Island and Peace Garden.

Sixty-six-year-old Judith Morris has been honoured after she has trained thousands of young people in first aid. Mrs Morris, from Halesowen, has directly and indirectly been responsible for life-saving episodes since 1962 when she joined St John Ambulance.

Willenhall Rugby Club's Elfyn Pugh has used his passion for the sport to coach, mentor and organise conferences for more than 50 years. The 83-year-old established Willenhall RUFC and also developed rugby talent including support for Arnie Evans, John French, Eric Field and Graham Smith. At the age off 77, Elfyn was still involved in coaching rugby at primary schools.

Front, from left, Kathryn Livingston from Oxley (services to people with Dissociative Identity Disorder), Terence (Terry) Price from West Bromwich (services to community), Pauline Hodgetts from Tipton (services to community in Tipton), Judith Morris from Halesowen (voluntary service to first aid and young people). Back, from left, Elfyn Pugh from Willenhall (voluntary service to rugby), Jennifer Harrison from Halesowen (voluntary service to young people and community), David Walker from Rowley Regis (services to community), David Pearce from Cradley Heath (voluntary and charitable services to healthcare)

Kathryn Livingston, 61, from Wolverhampton, has been honoured for her work with the often unrecognised and misunderstood condition Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID), also referred to as Multiple Personalities. In 1997, she founded First Person Plural (FFP) that specialises in working for those affected by DID.

David Walker, 63, has been honoured for his dedicated work over the last 20 years to helping young people in Sandwell. Mr Walker, who lives in Rowley Regis, is said to have been a life-changing mentor to teenage boys getting them to open up about their problems.

His efforts were cited during his time as a special constable and as a Justice of the Peace, where he often sits on student disciplinary panels. He is also a governor for two schools that are known for good community practice and he runs a garden club after school for Blackheath Primary School.

Upgrade of cycle route network in the pipeline

PLANS have been unveiled to improve Sandwell cycling links to railways and tram stations to encourage activity and reduce poor air quality at the same time.

A new cycle infrastructure programme has been produced by the council's strategic transport bosses and highlights work which is set to be completed over the next two years.

It includes towpath resurfacing works on the Birmingham Canal between Smethwick Galton Bridge and West Bromwich Street in Oldbury and to continue the link-up to the Dudley boundary. Also mooted are improvements to pedestrian and cycle access to Sandwell and Dudley railway station via Bromford Lane; and resurfacing works on the towpath of Tame Valley Canal between Rushall Junction and Hill Farm bridge to continue in the direction of Tipton and later to the Walsall Canal.

The report also includes the creation of a segregated pedestrian and cycle route from Navigation Lane to Tame Bridge Parkway station, along Walsall Road. There will also be improved cycle access works to Metro stations, including an improved cycle route along the Metro Line from Black Lake to the Hawthorns.

Regeneration chief, Councillor Paul Moore, said: "We want the canal network to play a significant role in providing safe, off-road links for people who want to cycle to get to work, to link cycle paths with public transport and for people cycling as a leisure activity." He added that there were also plans to introduce pedestrian and cycle routes and toucan crossing upgrades in the area of High Bullen, Wednesbury.

Boost numbers plan for school

PLANS to expand education for children with mild learning difficulties so they can find jobs are being put forward by council bosses.

The scheme to boost pupil numbers at The Westminster School, in Rowley Regis, to 250 were on the agenda last night, Wednesday. Under the plans, the special educational needs centre will teach children aged seven to 16 and provide supported internship and apprenticeships for those a little older.

The proposal follows consultation with parents, headteachers, council officers and young people. A cabinet report says the school will improve the opportunities of young people to find employment. In 2016, only 48 out of every 100 disabled people were in paid work, compared to 80 out of every 100 non-disabled people.

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Burglaries addict who returned to drug jailed

A 'REFORMED' prolific offender driven back to heroin – and crime – by the death of his young child was jailed for two years and four months.

Sean Robinson, aged 45, who had previous convictions, overcame his addiction to Class A drugs while serving a six-year term for robbery and came out of jail as a fully trained mechanic, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

He got a job two days after his release and held it for 15 months until the death of his newborn child which saw Robinson and his partner return to drug-taking – £50-a-day of heroin – prompting Robinson to commit three burglaries and attempted a fourth.

He knocked the front door of an address in Pound Road, Wednesbury on June 25 and presumed there was no-one home, said Miss Fiona Cortese, prosecuting. But the female occupant heard the sound of breaking glass and saw the defendant run off.

Twenty minutes later he broke a pane of glass in the front door at nearby Hackwood Road and was in the hallway when the woman resident put him to flight empty-handed.

Four days later a family returned to their home to Birmingham Road, Walsall to find the porch door open and a figure inside. Robinson ran away with two gold necklaces pursued by the owner in his car who took a picture. The defendant was arrested on July 6.

He pleaded guilty to the three offences and asked for a fourth burglary to be taken into consideration, from SJ Cleaning on the Brookside Industrial Estate in Wednesbury between

Dalian report is being finalised

A REPORT into the death of former Aston Villa star Dalian Atkinson is still being finalised, the Independent Office for Police Conduct has said.

The IOPC investigation has been in the closing stages for several months, ahead of a planned inquest later this year. Mr Atkinson, aged 48, died after being shot with a Taser by police outside his father's house in Meadow Close, Trench, on August 15, 2016.

Mark Pearson, of the IOPC, said: "The pathologist recommended a report from a further medical expert which has been completed, and is being considered."

A separate investigation into two police forces over the handling of complaints by a woman who was later shot and killed outside her home is also ongoing. West Mercia Police and Staffordshire Police are being investigated over Newport woman Cheryl Hooper who reported incidents to both forces before she died from a gunshot wound to her neck outside her home on January 26.

Mark on track to be star of cycle show

Mark Cavendish

THE Cycle Show, the UK's national cycling showcase, will be playing host to the greatest sprinter in cycling history, Mark Cavendish MBE, who is to attend this year's event.

Cavendish, who has an incredible 146 professional victories to his name including 48 Grand Tour wins and the 2011 World Championships title, will appear alongside a star-studded list of riders at the 2018 Cycle Show; which is shaping up to be one of the most exciting yet.

The British public will have an opportunity to connect with Cavendish on Sunday September 30, the final day of the Cycle Show.

Here he will deliver a Q&A with the audience, allowing visitors to put their questions directly to him, as well as sharing tales of his journey from riding BMX as a child to being at the top of his sport. VIP ticket holders will also have the opportunity to rub shoulders in the VIP Lounge where he'll be signing autographs and taking photos with fans.

Taking place at the NEC Birmingham between September 28-29, The Cycle Show is the best place in the country to see, try and buy the latest 2019 products from the leading brands.

With free test tracks featuring the latest road bikes, MTBs, electric and kids bikes, visitors will have the option to 'try before they buy' alongside benefiting from special show offers on the most innovative cycling gear, accessories and kit. For all tickets, please visit cycleshow.co.uk

Striking temple in top 100 historical places

Smethwick's Guru Nanak Gurdwara

SMETHWICK'S Guru Nanak Gurdwara has been chosen to feature in a new book celebrating England's heritage.

It features 100 important historical places around the country chosen by the public and shortlisted by notable judges.

The Very Reverend David Ison, Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, picked the Gurdwara, the largest Sikh place of worship in the country for the faith and belief category.

The impressive building is described as a 'symbol of a community that has become a key part of Britain's society', by author Philip Wilkinson.

It dates back to 1961, when the Sikh community bought and converted a former congregational chapel in High Street, Smethwick.

Previously, worship had been taking place in a school building in Brasshouse Lane, but this arrangement only lasted three years before the congregation outgrew the premises, Mr Wilkinson. a specialist writer on history, architecture and religion, explains.

As the number of worshippers continued to grow, the Gurdwara has been rebuilt several times since 1985. It now houses eight halls, together with largest Sikh library in the country.

The total congregation is in the region of 10,000, and the building also attracts many non-Sikh visitors. Mr Wilkinson said: "It is now a striking, white-clad structure, topped with onion domes and finials, flying the Sikh flag, and standing out above its neighbours."

The latest addition to the building is a 40,000 sq ft annexe containing a kitchen, a dining hall seating 500, a still larger banqueting hall, classrooms, meeting rooms, and a library.

Stars Hook up for Hippodrome

Jimmy Osmond as Captain Hook and Meera Syal as the Magical Mermaid, ready to star in Peter Pan at Birmingham Hippodrome

A SWASHBUCKLING production of Peter Pan, starring Midland-based comedienne Meera Syal, will be dazzling theatre-goers in Birmingham.

The comedian, actor and writer is part of an all-star cast in this year's panto at Birmingham Hippodrome, starting on December 19. The Goodness Gracious Me star went to school in Walsall while she was growing up in Essington.

Returning favourite Matt Slack will also feature with boyband star Jaymi Hensley, from Union J, and Jimmy Osmond.

Rehearsals started this week and producers promised the UK's biggest and best pantomime. Matt Slack, who is enjoying a run of six successive pantomimes in Birmingham, said he couldn't wait to get started.

Jimmy Osmond said it was a dream job to land a role in the Hippodrome pantomime because it was the biggest in the UK.

He added: "I've done eight pantomimes and this will be the biggest.

"The producers contacted me, rather than me chasing it, which is great. I have to say, I'm delighted to be back in Birmingham. I always enjoy a very warm reception when I come here. I've had some great times in the city over the years, playing concerts and appearing at the Hippodrome in Chicago and Grease. So it's wonderful to be back. It feels like home."

Jaymi Hensley said: " It's a cast of real A-listers with Matt and Meera and Jimmy and I can't wait to get the show started."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Shaping maternity services of future

FAMILIES will be given the chance to have their say on maternity services in the West Midlands. A meeting is due on Wednesday, September 26, from 10am to 2pm at the Holiday Inn at Junction 10 of the M6 near Walsall.

Over the last year, NHS organisations in Dudley, Sandwell and West Birmingham, Walsall and Wolverhampton held four listening workshops to talk to more than 200 women and families about their experiences of using maternity services.

Sally Roberts, chief nurse for the Black Country and West Birmingham Local Maternity System, said: "The insight we gained has been invaluable in helping to shape and develop a future maternity service."."

Forge ahead with school open days

A SCHOOL is throwing open its doors to prospective pupils and their parents as part of its annual open events.

Ormiston Forge Academy, in Cradley Heath, will welcome visitors today, Thursday and Saturday.

Children who are due to start secondary school in September 2019 and their parents are invited to visit to gain a taster of life at the academy.

The open evenings take place 6pm to 8.30pm on Thursday, and 9am to noon on Saturday. There is no need to book as families can turn up on the day. Visitors will be able to try out science experiments, view paintings, sample food and meet staff.

Brum top city for its greenery

THERE'S a surprise winner of UK cities with the greatest amount of green space – Birmingham.

The second city has 15.58 per cent of its area being made up of green space. In second place is Nottingham with 15.34 per cent, according to the study by Jury's Inn. Of the 19 cities London was bottom with 1.2 per cent.

When the population of each city was assessed against the amount of green space the results were quite different with Birmingham dropping to sixth, with one square metre of green space for every 273 people.

Wine tasting night at cinema in city

A BIRMINGHAM city centre cinema is combining a wine-tasting event with one of its screenings.

The award-winning comedy Sideways set in California's wine country is being shown at The Electric Cinema in Station Street on September 23 at 6pm. The tasting, hosted by The Wine Events Company, will involve five wines that feature in the movie.

IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Miss title wasn't a hit with Siobhan

A COUPLE of weeks ago this column recalled the rather wearisome comedian whose act involved masquerading as the Mayor of Stafford and then offending people with stupid comments on Twitter.

Well I'm now wondering if there is actually more than one of them. Because it seems hard to believe that Siobhan O'Dwyer, who vented her spleen on social media after being addressed by an air hostess as 'Miss' rather than 'Dr O'Dwyer' can be anything other than a wind-up.

"I didn't spend eight years at university to be called Miss," she hollered indignantly.

Talk about a chip on the shoulder. It's a wonder the plane was able to take off with that much ego on board. On Ryan Air they would have added a baggage charge for it.

"It's not about the title," she elaborated. "It's about the fact that this wouldn't have happened if I was a man."

Oh, gerrover yerself, love. Of course it would. Because many organisations – this one included – have a policy of restricting the honorific 'Dr' to medics and clerics. If you save lives, we call you doctor. If you read lots of books, you're Mr, Mrs or Miss. It's not that big a deal.

And a quick glance at Siobhan's Twitter feed shows she hasn't performed much open-heart surgery lately. Rather, she appears to spend more time on the picket line. She looks one very angry young lady.

It transpires her doctorate is in philosophy, and she earns a crust by teaching philosophy to others at Exeter University. Presumably producing another generation of philosophy lecturers, a bit like one of those pyramid-selling schemes.

Still at least she has a job, unlike anarchist campaigner Ian Bone. He hit the headlines recently for heckling the small children of Tory MP Jacob Rees-Mogg, telling them "Your Daddy is a horrible person. Lots of people hate him."

Brave or what?

Anyway, Mr Bone, has proudly explained how he has never had a job since graduating from Swansea University in 1968 – unless you count publishing a pamphlet celebrating 'hospitalised coppers' – and has been on benefits ever since, carving out a comfortable living in a large detached house on the outskirts of Bristol.

Two questions: What sort of anarchist lives off state benefits? Aren't they supposed to be against government and all that? And secondly, did he get a gold watch from the dole office to mark his 50 years?

Is making misogyny a hate crime, just a step too far?

Brand of humour – Jo's sharp comment on men in midst of misogyny 'hate crime' debate

Not happy – Serena Williams, even before she saw an Aussie paper's widely-criticised cartoon

Chipping in with food for thought for Labour – memories of Mandy's mushy peas gaffe

Kicking out blokey banter on football

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

I DON'T entirely understand how making misogyny – ie hatred of women – illegal is supposed to work, in the wake of calls by Labour MP Stella Creasey. I am one of those bizarre blokes who prefers female company and would rather natter with women than get drawn into a blokey debate about footie. But it is a fact that some men simply dislike women, just as some men dislike cats, soccer or speed humps. It is also true that some women dislike blokes, as expressed by Jo Brand in one of her classic quips: "The best way to a man's heart is through his hanky pocket with a bread knife." It seems curious that the law overlooks Jo's advice on knife murder but may soon crack down on "disrespectful" men who wolf-whistle at women. I dare say I should be sent for re-education.

AT a time when overworked police can't cope with real crimes, one force is criticised for inviting complaints about non-criminal incidents. Under the banner "Hate will not be tolerated in South Yorkshire," the local force is urging folk to report non-crime hate incidents, defined as events "which can include things like offensive or insulting comments, online, in person or in writing." The idea seems to be that non-criminal speech or writing might turn into hate crime. On the same basis, why not nick drivers at 27 or 28mph? They may not be breaking the speed limit now but they might in the future, right?

I WAS going to write a couple of lines about some of the public's angrier responses to the police tweet. Better not. It might constitute a non-criminal incident.

IN any case, thanks to predictive-spelling programs, your non-criminal words may not even be the ones you intended. Among the many responses to the South Yorkshire Police tweet was: "Amber Rudd is a crime against humidity."

THREE cheers for the Commission for Religious Education's plea for school RE lessons to include not only religions but atheism, secularism and humanism. At long last, RE teachers will be able to say: "Right, kids, I've given you all the guff from the curriculum on organised religion. Now, here's what most of us actually believe." In my limited experience, if you explain that it's perfectly fine, decent and respectable not to believe in a god, people breathe a sigh of relief.

I REFERRED recently to tithes – the one-tenth of your income demanded by the Church in olden times. A reader has a collection of 200-year-old receipts for rents and tithes from the landlord and the church, paid by tenant farmers. In some years the landlord reduced the rent because of 'the bad state of the markets' but as far as my reader can find: "There is never a penny knocked off by the church. Clearly the aristocracy showed more Christian charity than the church."

SOME folk are raging against the 'racist' cartoon showing Serena Williams throwing her tantrum. As they are fully entitled to do. Yet I wonder how many of them were defiantly chanting 'Je Suis Charlie' a couple of years ago in their support of the Charlie Hebdo magazine after the massacre at its Paris offices? Most people claim to cherish freedom of expression. What a lot of them mean is: "I believe in freedom of expression – but . . ."

SCIENTISTS in Switzerland have developed a new app which will tell you exactly where your lost golf ball is. It detects a signal from a tiny transmitter inside the ball. Very clever. However, it has one basic flaw. It can only find the golf ball where the ball actually is. A much older method involves dropping a spare ball through a hole in your pocket and down your trouser leg, so you can find the ball exactly where you want it to be.

IF we believe the Guardian, research shows that: "Labour has evolved from being the party of casseroles and bingo to the party of quinoa and student protests." Anyone remember New Labour and the mushy peas? It is a story, oft told and always denied. Labour's Peter Mandelson, on a 1997 campaign visit to a chip shop Oop North, allegedly pointed to the mushy peas and asked for "some of that guacamole." Labour is always boasting about its half-a-million members. I wonder how many of them could recognise mushy peas, mild ale or a whippet.

A WHIPPET, comrade? It's like a miniature Borzoi.

TALKING POINT

A role to play for TV drama producers

SOAP operas are not averse to tackling hard-hitting storylines, and two of the popular dramas have now resorted to highlighting problems that many don't know how to handle.

Yet often, such subjects – homelessness and mental health – are taboo and, certainly with the latter, there seems a certain stigma attached.

As viewers tend to identify with soap storylines and characters, it is hoped these issues can be brought into the open and, perhaps even tackled.

In Corrie, Sean Tully has found himself, literally, on the street. Apparently it was actor Antony Cotton's own idea to bring the issue to life. He knew someone who suddenly lost everything and ended up on the streets, so he himself could identify with the problem.

Help has now been found. But the tragic plight could happen to anyone at any time, and, for those in desperate need – and through no fault of their own – sympathy, and a solution must be found.

Hollyoaks, meanwhile, has launched a mental health storyline, with one of its characters being diagnosed with schizoaffective disorder. Programme makers say they have worked closely with the charity MIND to ensure this issue in sensitively portrayed. Again, this is an issue that sufferers require help with, and that others need to understand better.

The battle faced by Destiny's Child singer Michelle Williams with depression shows how anyone can be affected.

Other big names stars have their own troubles. Selena Gomez is an idol to millions but has revealed a battle with alcohol, revealing via the lyrics of a song she was no longer sober. And it's sad to see.

Internet trolls are believed to have had a hand in Gomez falling off the wagon. It is easy to say she should set a better example and 'stay strong' for her adorers, but sympathy is needed and one can only hope the singer gets the help she needs for her addiction. It is after all, an illness.

Ant McPartlin's issues are well-documented. And, while I would never condone his drink-driving actions, it is clear he is a troubled soul who needs medical help to sort out his problems.

While there is a support network in place and there are friends are family to turn to, not all sufferers can pay big money for treatment. Some may argue that their illnesses are of their own making.

But that is not always the case, and this is where society comes in, to have a better understanding of conditions, and offer more help to anyone afflicted.

MARK SHIPP

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What about over-60s' travel help?

I READ in the 30 August issue of the Chronicle that "young people" can now get 50 per cent discounts on bus, train and tram travel in our region. I am happy for them. I would be even happier if Mayor Andy Street would offer the same privilege to myself.

At the age of 62 I still have to work full time and have four more years to go before I can get my pension due to the recent changes.

To receive one's pension one must have paid in 35 years of national insurance contributions. I have currently paid in 45 years, yet incredibly I will still have to pay full national insurance contributions until I retire.

I am no longer entitled to free travel until retirement age so not only do I have to continue working and paying national insurance, I also have to pay £98 a month for a travel card to get me to work and back. Perhaps Andy Street might consider people of my age who have contributed decade on decade to our region!

The increase in the retirement age for women has had a detrimental effect on women born in the 1950s who now have an additional six or seven years to work which they had not planned for, financially or emotionally, an estimated £40,000 loss in pension payments. WASPI (Women Against State Pension Inequality: www.waspi.co.uk) is a growing nationwide campaign for women like me who have been robbed of our money and of our precious time.

LINDA BWALYA
West Bromwich

Review is needed on road laws

OVER recent months in Darlaston I have witnessed so much injustice to road traffic victims time and time again when we have been waiting years for the Government to carry out a full review of road traffic laws it's time to call for action.

We all know of the local plague of speeding motorists, anti-social parking over pavements, dangerous speeds and parking in front of schools, reckless overtaking of cyclists, under-passing on motorways, to list only a few examples of law changes local people would like included in the Highway Code and covered in meaningful, enforceable new laws. Confiscating the illegal speeding motor cycles and noisy quad bikes by our police is one power but there are many untaxed and illegal vehicles that clutter our lanes, alleys and unlisted areas that could be removed. Why scrap illegal or unclaimed stolen vehicles? If they are safe and in road worthy condition resell them and give the proceeds to local charities. Money can be re-invested in our communities.

Sentencing levels must also be reformed. Killing people on our roads does not receive the weight of sentence murderers have meted out by our courts.

CLLR DOUG JAMES
Walsall

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

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Stabbings continue without a deterrent

DAY after day we read about yet another stabbing. Little has been heard from our politicians about this horrid issue. Judges don't seem to want to issue long hard sentences either...and so the spiral continues.

Let's consider what we check as we leave the house each day....have we locked up the back door, closed the windows, wallet purse and keys...whereas these thugs when leaving check, have we got our hoodies, scarf to cover face keys to lock house and oh, a knife! Just for being in possession of a knife in public should warrant years.

Today's prisons rife with drugs, Sky TV and little or no rehabilitation offers no deterrent. The Bronx has arrived in the Midlands; do you feel safe walking down our streets?

SHAUN HARRISON
West Bromwich

Lorry driver on memory lane to past

I AM now a retired lorry driver. I am 88 years old and I once worked for a Manchester frozen food company in 1950 called Lovell Wall.

I used to deliver frozen food, etc, to the firms in and around the Wolverhampton area.

I was wondering if any of your readers might have worked for these companies and if they have, I would appreciate it if they could call me on 01309 641199 and I would then call them right back.

The firms were Moorcream, Tipton, the manager was called Mr Pete Piola; M K G Creameries of Cannock; The Colonel Transport Cafe at Bloxwich; Salmons of Walsall; March & Baxter, Brierley Hill, and the Pantry Cafe opposite where I used to stay overnight.

Another one was Ashford Dairies, in Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge, and the manager was Mr Jackson.

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Port Loop will bring 1,100 homes to city

A MASTERPLAN has been unveiled to transform 43 acres of run-down canalside property in Birmingham into more than 1,100 new homes.

The Port Loop scheme has been put together by developers Urban Splash and Places for People to create a new community within the city.

It will mean the existing Icknield Port Loop area will be transformed into a new waterside neighbourhood by the pioneering joint venture partnership which aims to delivering the masterplan in tandem with Canal & River Trust and Birmingham City Council, creating 1,150 new homes.

The first homes will go up for sale towards the end of this month.

Adam Willetts, project director for the Urban Splash and Places for People joint venture, said: "We are delighted to unveil our full vision for Port Loop for the first time.

"This is an incredibly exciting regeneration scheme which will create a new area for Birmingham."

The first 40 properties – which will launch for sale on September 29 – will be modular properties, meaning customers can dictate the designs of their own home to suit their needs; choosing from a range of floorplans, buyers will determine the number of bedrooms, fittings and general composition of their homes over either two or three storeys.

College kicks off hospitality course

SANDWELL College has launched a new hospitality course in partnership with West Bromwich Albion. The new study programme aims to provide the industry with trained professionals.

Upon completion of the course they will hold a BTEC level 3 qualification and a wealth of skills, knowledge and experience gained by working within a first class corporate hospitality organisation.

Commons praise for chiefs' traveller transit site move

SANDWELL Council has won praise from the Government for its quick actions in dealing with unauthorised traveller encampments in the borough.

During a debate in the House of Commons last Monday, MPs discussed how councils were dealing with travelling groups around the country. Conservative MP for West Bedfordshire Andrew Selous praised Sandwell Council's lead to create a temporary transit site for traveller groups.

As a result, he encouraged his local council and police to follow suit.

He added that the current legislation was failing both the travelling and settled communities. It comes as Sandwell Council revealed travelling groups spent 33 days camped in the borough in 2017/18 with costs of dealing with them reaching £10,000.

Mr Selous said: "I am strongly encouraging Central Bedfordshire Council to adopt the policy of Sandwell Council in having a temporary stopping site. The provision has led to a significant decrease in unauthorised encampments and the associated clear-up costs and environmental degradation that sadly so often accompany them."

Sandwell Council created a transit site in September 2017, unlocking powers that allow police to direct traveller groups to the site in Smethwick where they must pay rent and a deposit, or leave the borough.

Councillor Paul Moore, Sandwell Council's cabinet member for regeneration and economy, said: "It's good to hear Sandwell being mentioned positively and to have the efforts we've put into dealing with unauthorised encampments recognised by MPs."

Housing Minister Kit Malthouse MP also praised Sandwell Council's partnership with West Midlands Police.

Paul shares his great pumpkin-stincts

Paul Singh, right, and Inderjit Singh celebrate the huge crop of giant pumpkins

HALLOWEEN is fast approaching and one Black Country man is already well-prepared after producing a large crop of giant pumpkins.

Paul Singh, aged 67, from White Road in Smethwick has been growing pumpkins for 40 years and now has a mountain of pumpkins at his allotment in Stony Lane. His batch of pumpkins prove popular with friends and family and members from Baba Sang Temple in Smethwick, where Mr Singh donates the pumpkins to. The pumpkins are then turned into soup and served to people at the temple. Mr Singh grows vegetables in his one allotments, including onions, cucumbers, lettuce, spinach and parsnips.

Mr Singh's friend, Inderjit Singh, flew over from India on holiday and was surprised by the size of the pumpkins, adding he had 'never seen anything like it' before. Shin Sanghera, Mr Singh's daughter, said: "It's a hobby of his. He spends a lot of time in there and he is very proud of the pumpkins themselves because they turned out to be massive.

"He shares the pumpkins with family and friends and if there's any left over he donates them to the temple."

The pumpkins weigh between 55kg to 57kg, with others weighing between 20kg and 50kg – slightly less than the 70kg pumpkin which the 67-year-old made last year.

Fitness day celebrations due at centre

WEST Bromwich Leisure Centre will be embracing this year's National Fitness Day on September 26, with free activities taking place for all the family. The day celebrates the fun side of fitness and physical activity, whilst promoting the importance of healthy, active lifestyles for all ages.

This year Places Leisure, which manages the site, decided to team up with Heart UK, the cholesterol charity for the day, to help raise funds to support their valuable work and increase awareness of the importance of adopting healthier lifestyles through 'moving more'.

Participants who attend a class on the day will be encouraged to text donate £5 to HEART UK.

Free activities on the day include PT taster sessions, body MOT's, gym challenges, circuit classes and use of the soft play area between 4pm - 8pm, for which booking is required.

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Time-saving M6 Toll signs to lure in drivers

MOTORISTS are to be urged to use the M6 Toll with a series of signs showing the time they could save taking the route.

Regional transport bosses hope the move will free up the M6 through Birmingham and the Black Country.

It has also received the support of motorway operator Midland Expressway Limited, which would benefit from the scheme.

Midlands Connect, which oversees transport, infrastructure and development, has been working on the idea.

Head of technical programmes, Simon Statham, gave a presentation on the scheme to members of the West Midlands Combined Authority this week.

He said: "The study has looked at evidence and traffic patterns – there is a reasonably significant amount of traffic which could use the toll, but is not.

"We could provide better information so motorists can understand what benefits they might get and they can make an informed choice.

"Some people will never change, and will not pay to use the route. But we want people to know the benefits, which could also help with the flow of traffic on the M6 through the West Midlands."

The signs, Mr Statham said, would be located at key locations across the region.

They would show the time it would take to get between two junctions on the M6, and the time it would take on the M6 Toll.

The toll currently costs £6.40 for a car to use during the day, Monday to Friday, and £5.30 at weekends. The night charge is £4.10.

Mr Statham added: "We have had a verbal agreement from the M6 Toll operators that they would invest into it.

"We need to pull together a scheme which will benefit all parties."

The scheme is part of a transport study looking at ways to tackle congestion.

Last phase of care village

An image of the wellbeing centre at Bristol Road South

PLANS to complete a £50 million care village on the site of a former college campus have been submitted.

Bournville Village Trust has lodged an application with Birmingham City Council for a health and wellbeing centre at the Bristol Road South site between Northfield and Selly Oak.

It would be the fourth and final phase of the development which has been under way since 2012 following the demolition of the college which relocated to the former Rover site at Longbridge.

The new building would accommodate three GP surgeries with a suite of consultancy rooms and a pharmacy.

The other components of the village include extra care facilities, dementia and nursing home as well as 200 car parking spaces.

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Pedal power raises £25k for helpline

Cyclists from Handsworth Beat The Street Community Cycling Club take part in The Sikh Helpline ride

A BIKE ride has helped to raise £25,000 for a national helpline service.

Three bike rides were carried out in aid of The Sikh Helpline, based at Guru Har Rai Gurdwara, in West Bromwich High Street, for the fifth year in a row.

Cyclists could compete in the 60-mile ride from Leicester to Wolverhampton, or join at West Bromwich and along the way.

The Sikh Helpline, a registered charity, helps people suffering from domestic abuse, child abuse, bullying and other issues. Giani Sukha Singh, aged 53, CEO of The Sikh Helpline, who organised the event, said: "We've been doing the bike ride for five years and it's got very big.

"There was about 140 to 150 riders altogether and we had a lot of support vehicles, so about 200 people.

"A fundraising crew went on ahead of the cyclists and raised funds.

"We had three sponsors – West Midlands Police, the Jet Singh Trust and LoveYourPostcode.com, while Jet Singh Trust was the main sponsor for the bike ride. A lot of different companies sponsored us." The event took two-and-a-half months to organise.

Members from Handsworth Beat The Street Community Cycling Club also joined the ride.

Mr Singh said: "We had three different levels of competition – 60 miles, 24 miles and 12 miles. The bike ride not only raises awareness and funding for the Sikh Helpline charity, but it promotes a healthy and active lifestyle."

For details, go to www.sikhhelpline.com

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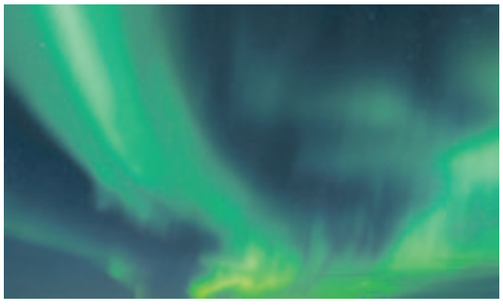

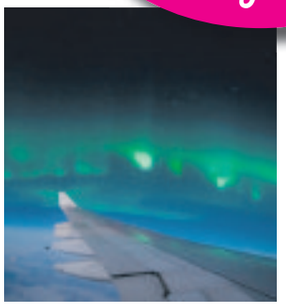

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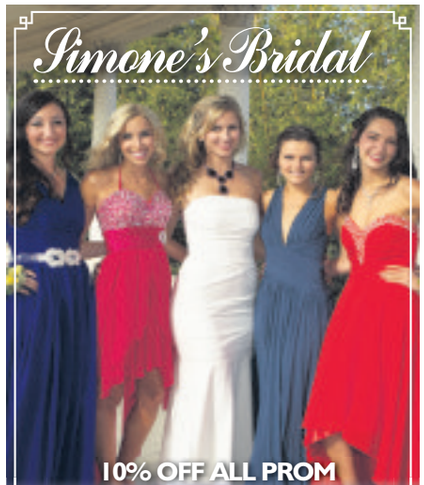

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Moore care for the NHS staff who do the caring

CARING for the carers, Tracey Moore has helped more than 400 NHS workers maintain their health and wellbeing through her therapy services.

Tracey Moore, from Cradley Heath, provides holistic and beauty therapy services to staff who work for Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust (SWBH) and for her, this is one of 'the best jobs in the world'.

"I love caring for people and to be able to care for those who work for the NHS, that is even more meaningful to me," explained Tracey.

"I feel like I work alongside the NHS and support the institution in a small way. It's great satisfaction whenever I see people feel better after their treatment."

Operations

The brave cancer survivor also praised the NHS for the help that she received. Tracey, aged 51, recalled: "I was diagnosed with breast cancer last May. That started with a rash.

"I then visited my GP and was referred to City Hospital. Within two weeks from being referred to taking tests, doctors confirmed that I had cancer.

"I then had four operations and radiotherapy. I got the 'all-clear' by December last year and I felt so lucky. The teams at City Hospital were first class and I felt enormously grateful for their help."

Once she made a full recovery, Tracey decided to go back to work immediately. She said: "I just couldn't wait to get back to work.

"SWBH has been so helpful to me. They have given me all the support that I need to run my service. And now, I am able to see staff at Rowley Regis and City hospitals, which is really great.

"The Trust truly cares for its employees' health and wellbeing. They hold many events where staff are encouraged to adopt a healthy lifestyle.

"I think it's the right thing to do. NHS staff are very busy, so giving the care that they need to boost their energy is essential."

Outside her work, Tracey enjoys spending time with her daughter, reading books about nutrition, health and wellbeing, and visiting the gym to keep fit.

She also plans to do a course specialising in seated acupressure massage, which will allow her to offer services to more people in the Trust. She explained: "This type of massage allows me to carry a specially-designed chair more easily and provides flexibility to work in different places, enabling me to offer my service to more staff.

She added: "The Theatre Team at City in particular are amazing – I'd say they are my heroes. When I underwent the various operations to treat my cancer, everyone in the team was amazing and they made my journey so much easier. Their calm and supportive manner really made a big difference to me."

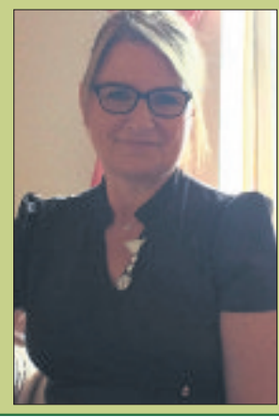
NHS HEROES

ONCE again we focus some of our time on the quiet heroes of the NHS, from a wide variety of backgrounds doing a wide variety of jobs.

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust is one of the Black Country's largest NHS organisations.

It employs 7,500 people, many of whom live locally. Each year, the trust provides care from 150 locations.

This week we highlight: TRACEY MOORE Holistic and beauty therapist



Sandwell age UK

Advice Sessions

Age UK Sandwell will be at the following Locations every other week from 18th September 2018
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Glebefields Library, St Marks Road, Tipton, DY4 0SZ (alternate Tuesday mornings). Next date – 18th September then every 2 weeks

Blackheath Library, 145 High Street, Blackheath, Rowley Regis, B65 0EA (alternate Wednesday afternoons). Next date 3rd October then every 2 weeks.

Thimblemill Library, Thimblemill Road, Smethwick, B67 5RJ (alternate Tuesday mornings). Next date 25th September then every 2 weeks.

Wednesbury Library, Walsall Street, Wednesbury, WS10 9EH (alternate Wednesday mornings). Next date 26th September and then every 2 weeks.

Wesley Church, 291 High Street , West Bromwich, B70 8ND (Mondays 10:00-12:30 and Thursdays 13:00-15:00 from w/c 24th September.)

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Finalists reflect strength of Black Country business

Representatives at the unveiling for the Black Country Chamber's annual business awards shortlist at Casino 36

MORE than two dozen businesses have been unveiled as finalists of the annual Black Country Chamber of Commerce Awards.

For the first time, the Black Country's biggest business organisation made the announcement at a high profile event hosted by Wolverhampton's Casino 36.

The awards are an annual celebration, established five years ago. Since that time, they have recognised more than 150 Black Country individuals and businesses for their achievements. There are 10 categories in the awards this year and the winners will be revealed at the prestigious annual awards celebration on November 9, at Wolverhampton Racecourse.

The three finalists in each category – selected by a panel of judges made up of business professionals from a range of leading Black Country organisations – were announced at the event by chief executive of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce, Corin Crane.

He said: "The 10 categories were created to reflect the real strength and breadth of the colourful Black Country business community and it has been a very difficult process for the judges."

The headline sponsor of this year's awards event is business consultancy, Neon Tiger.

Award categories are Best Use of Technology, Customer Commitment Award, Education & Business Partnership, Excellence in Manufacturing & Engineering, Export Business of the Year, Small Business of the Year, Social Impact Champion, Tony Andrews Start-Up Award, Workplace Wellbeing Award and Young Person or Apprentice of the Year. Tickets to the event are available at bcccawards.co.uk

Favourite books Roald into one

Grace Academy pupils, from left, Hadeesa Iman, Ned O'Neil, Bradley Millington, Hayley-Jade Smith celebrate Roald Dahl

ONE of the world's number one storytellers has been celebrated by 900 pupils. Grace Academy Darlaston celebrated Roald Dahl Day and were encouraged to test their knowledge of author's best-selling adventures.

These included James and the Giant Peach, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Matilda and The BFG, with prizes including books and Roald Dahl mugs on offer.

Kyanne Lockwood, in year eight, said Roald Dahl's adventures pulled him into the book and made him feel like he was in the story. "Matilda was an adventurous little girl whose parents didn't want her to be educated so she kept a library in her bedroom and read in secret," he said.

Imogen Johnson added: "I like all the energy Roald Dahl put into his books, and it makes you want to read more.

English teacher Ruth Scrivens said Roald Dahl's adventurous stories could give him the same significance as Shakespeare in the future.

Show-off biker left boy, 12, disabled

A BIKER who almost killed a boy while 'showing off' with the child riding pillion, has been jailed for three years.

Doctors told the devastated parents of Joshua Locke, who suffered 'catastrophic' injuries, to 'grieve for the son they had', Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. He will be seriously disabled for the rest of his life.

Report by John Scott

Tragedy struck as Martin Charles took the 12-year-old, who he treated as a stepson, for a 30-minute 'spin' on the back of a stolen 125cc machine against the wishes of the youngster's mother, said Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting.

The 30-year-old rider – who had no valid licence nor insurance and gave his helmet to the boy to wear – went onto the wrong side of the road to overtake a line of traffic waiting to turn right into the Asda car park in Daisy Street, Coseley.

But the car at the head of the queue started to turn before the bike reached it and it ploughed into the Ford Fiesta. Experts said the machine had been travelling at an average speed of 42mph in a 30 limit before the August 6 smash.

Joshua's adult helmet was too large and flew off in the collision. The defendant suffered three broken ribs, two fractured vertebrae and a broken thigh. Charles said he panicked and did not report the incident to police.

Mr Gurdeep Garcha, defending, said: "He blames nobody but himself."

Charles, of Fereday Street, Tipton, admitted causing serious injury by dangerous driving, failing to stop after an accident and having neither insurance nor a valid licence. Judge Dean Kershaw said: "You put that young boy on a bike to show off. It was some kind of twisted bravado."

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Mincing million invested by Tulip

A MAJOR £1 million investment has been made in putting in a new mincing line at a Tipton meat processing factory.

Parent group Danish Crown has made the investment at its Tulip plant at George Henry Road. It has improved efficiency, and increased output at the plant which processes both frozen and fresh mince meat. Tulip said that the funding has already led to increased business, with significant additional volumes of mince being processed for a key client each week.

Neil Parry, general site manager at Tipton, said: "The new investment at Tipton has provided us with state-of-the-art equipment and will allow us to accommodate a wider range of customer demands. The new line will help to reduce shortages and mechanical issues, while also cutting down on wastage."

Mike Wijnberg, the managing director of Tulip's fresh division said: "This investment is another example of our commitment to innovation and ensuring we stay ahead of the game."

Its Dalehead Foods operation is dedicated to supplying Waitrose with quality pork and lamb products.

FOCUS ON TIPTON

Food store plan for site of town pub despite protests

A TIPTON pub could be forced to close after plans were lodged with Sandwell Council to turn it into a food store.

The Sportsman pub, in St Marks Road, could become a Herons Food store – if the plans are approved by planning bosses. Hundreds of residents have already signed a petition against the pub's closure.

Report by Luke Bartlett

Run by New River Retail, the pub has been at the heart of the community for the last 50 years.

Pub manager, Ross Arnold, said he had taken over the venue in February of this year, after it closed around Christmas time.

Mr Arnold added: "The area manager came in recently and said they [Heron Foods] had placed an application to turn it into a shop.

"It is a pub that mean's a lot to the community. The petition went up in the local shop last Wednesday and already has around eight to nine pages worth of signatures. Most of the customers are elderly and it has been the local for around 50 or 60 years. We have had a lot of feedback from our customers – people are not happy about it.

"Quite a few of our older customers who have been coming to the pub for 40 to 50 years they said they just won't go out anymore – they come here because its right on their door step.

Princes End Councillor Stephen Jones added: "I think the closure is a commercial decision by the brewery [New River Retail]. There will be some people that welcome the cheap food and some people who say that another business has gone.

"I think it was a good pub, and it has been a community pub. It is a local pub for local people, it is definitely part of the fabric of Princes End."

Herons Foods Limited hopes to re-develop the site, extending it to include 23 parking spaces provided for customers.

The Sportsman pub in St Mark's Road, Tipton, which could become a Herons Food store

Baking bid at library to win a prize

A REMINDER has gone out about a library's annual bake off contest in memory of former Library customer Alf Breakwell.

Tipton Library's hosts the Breakwell Bake Off Cake Competition on Saturday, September 29 with a trophy and cash prize on offer for the winner.

Robert Hazel, library manager, said the contest was "in memory of Alf Breakwell, a library customer and excellent baker who is sorely missed.

"The hunt is on to find the best Victoria sandwich cake."

To enter, collect an entry form from the library or email robert_hazel@sandwell.gov.uk.

The winner will be announced at the library on September 29 and 12 noon.

Tenth year for Tipton festival

THE tenth annual Tipton Canal and Community Festival is being held along the Birmingham Main Line Canal on September 22 and 23. Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust will be running narrowboat trips.

There will be displays of working boats, vintage steam engines, a craft fair and floating traders.

Tipton Community Association organises the festival, which will also feature live music and a fun dog show on the Sunday from 12 noon.

Former brewery buildings on society's endangered list

AN Oldbury landmark set of buildings which have fallen into disrepair has been named on a top 10 endangered buildings list.

The Victorian Society's annual list aims to expose the plight of Victorian and Edwardian buildings at risk and across the country there is an Islamic school once suspected of training terrorists and a group of gothic cemetery chapels also included.

By David Banner

The Grade II listed Langley Maltings, also known as Showell's Maltings, sits on the banks of the Titford Canal and were used right up until 2006. However the redbrick buildings, which date back to 1870 fell victim to arson in 2009 which the society said caused "significant" damage.

They were were saved from demolition in 2012 but have since fallen into disrepair.

Society president Griff Rhys Jones said: "Every single building is crying out for redevelopment."

He added: "These are pieces of the history of the Victorian era and its industrial, spiritual and cultural beliefs – incredible.

"And this makes their current sad and neglected state even harder to swallow."

Langley Maltings has two parallel three-storey ranges of malting floors with six kilns near to the canal.

This was one of the last maltings to use the traditional floor malting method, whereby grains of barley were doused with water, spread over the floor, then turned regularly to ensure even germination.

Walter Showell worked in a chemist shop in Oldbury. He married Sarah Harthill, the daughter of a master miller and in 1870 he established a brewery with land at Crosswells, where there was a spring dating from medieval times (the Well of the Holy Cross).

The maltings were erected on the side of the Titford Canal to supply malt to Walter's new brewery, a hundred yards away across the railway line. This was one of the largest breweries in the area, and Showell's Ales were distributed throughout the Midlands.

Local barley was used in the malting process, supplemented with grain brought in by barge and, later, by railway. In the early 1900's they began distilling gin at the brewery.

Today the Crosswells site is owned by Alcohols Ltd. Only one of six independent gin distilleries in the UK.

Part of the Langley Maltings site, with its damaged roof following arson nearly a decade ago

M5 canteen wins award

A CANTEEN for construction workers on a motorway repair scheme has won gold in Eat Out Eat Well awards. The M5 Canteen feeds operatives on the works at at the M5 Oldbury Viaduct. It is the only establishment to have achieved the Gold Award for Eat Out Eat Well from Sandwell Council's Environmental Health Department.

Sally Eccleston, catering manager, said: "This is something I'm really passionate about and I have really enjoyed the challenge of developing the canteen from a blank piece of paper to where we are today, serving over 1,200 operatives every week."

The Eat Out Eat Well award rewards good practice and highlights businesses that are making it easier to eat healthily when out. Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council's award is based on the ongoing commitment to a range of conditions including keeping the level of fat, salt and sugar to a minimum.

Clair's on track with soulful CD

A COLLECTION of 'soulful vibes with a gospel message', is a second compilation record – Central Streets of Soul (CSOS) – which is being championed by Oldbury-based singer-songwriter and voice coach, Clair Rogoff.

The talented vocalist is behind a mixture of local and national artists of varying experience, comprising 11 professional-sounding tracks that feature upbeat tempos and plentiful urges to find a relationship with God.

Clair herself appears on track 10 - Love never Falls. It's a song from her harmony duo Clearrose with twin sister Rose, and features artist Bo too

Two of the featured artists, Courtney Copeland and Brummie Lucy Rose Garnish will be taking part in a joint concert and talk at Erdington's OIKOS Café on September 27.

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Tel: 0121 525 1700

Email: year7admissions@sandwellacademy.com

Academy celebrates after an excellent set of exam results

Commercial feature

Sandwell Academy is celebrating an excellent set of GCSE outcomes and A-level examination results as preparation for next year's Year 7 admission begins.

Sandwell Academy opened in 2006 and now educates more than 1,200 students. As part of the Thomas Telford Multi Academy Trust (TTMAT), established in September 2017, Sandwell Academy is proud of its achievements and is a school where students receive praise, support and challenge.

In November 2011, January 2014 and again in May 2017 Ofsted graded the academy as "outstanding".

Students benefit from state-of-the-art facilities, a flourishing extra-curricular programme, a safe and caring environment with high levels of pastoral support and an emphasis on traditional values of good behaviour, mutual respect and excellent attendance.

Business

Year 11 students achieved a fantastic set of results with 86 per cent of students achieving five or more GCSE qualifications at grade 9 to 4 (A*-C).

Outcomes were especially high in science, religious education, physical education, business, art and drama.

Sixth Form students achieved another excellent set of A-level examination results.

Outstanding outcomes included 26 per cent A*/A grades and 75 per cent A*/C grades with 92 per cent of the students achieving at least a pass grade in every subject.

The new, tougher A-level and BTEC courses have proved challenging, however, Sandwell Academy students have consistently led the way in Sixth Form performance in the borough since it opened in 2006.

Applications for Year 7 2019 are now open through your local authority.

If you are interested in finding out more, come and visit Sandwell Academy on one of the information evenings on September 20 or October 9 2018. Please note attendance to the information evenings is by appointment only.

Visit the website sandwellacademy.com for further details and to book a place.

Three students at Sandwell Academy working together to solve a problem

Holly Lodge High School

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Museums and libraries help to promote beauty of area with contest

Drawing to a close, with art competition

Old Chestnut at Sandwell Valley by Austin Clifford

SANDWELL folk can now for their favourite piece of art in the final of Sandwell's Hidden Treasures art competition.

Amateur artists, schools and community groups entered a range of pieces for the project, inspired by their favourite buildings, open spaces, walks, views and local attractions.

Over the summer, entries were displayed at Sandwell's four museums – Haden Hill House, Manor House Museum, Oak House Museum and Wednesbury Museum and Art Gallery – and visitors voted for their favourite at each site. Now everyone can vote for the overall winner, which will be announced in October, with the final date for nominations being October 5 at www.sandwell.gov.uk/hiddentreasures. The finalists are:

Brunswick Park by Priory Primary School Art Club – Wednesbury Museum and Art Gallery finalist;

Herons Trail by Wendy Priest – Oak House Museum finalist;

Sunday

Old Chestnut at Sandwell Valley by Austin Clifford – Manor House Museum finalist;

Sunny Sunday Walks by Hayley Jukes – Haden Hill House Museum finalist.

Councillor Steve Trow, Sandwell Council's cabinet member for culture and core council services, said: "I want to thank all the artists who entered the competition, which has given a really good insight into people's favourite 'hidden treasures' in Sandwell.

"Now we have our four finalists, I encourage everyone to take a look and vote for their favourite piece of art."

Alongside the online vote, the four pieces will be going on a tour around local libraries so that people can also paper vote for the winner of the arts trail.

They will be exhibited for four weeks, and started off on display at Tipton Library last week, before moving onto Oldbury Library this week, starting on Monday.

Next week, they will be on show at Central Library West Bromwich and the week after they will be at Blackheath Library.

Brunswick Park by Priory Primary School Art Club

Herons Trail, by Wendy Priest, who was the Oak House winner

Sunny Sunday Walks by Hayley Jukes – Haden Hill House Museum finalist

Ex-minister is given honorary university role

FORMER Government minister Andrew Mitchell has been made an honorary professor at the University of Birmingham.

Mr Mitchell, who is also MP for Sutton Coldfield, has been appointed to the role in international development.

He served in David Cameron's Government and was International Development Secretary between 2010 and 2012.

The role will see him teach an undergraduate module on strategy and development, host debates, hold masterclasses for PhD students and be involved in university events and conferences including its Foreign Aid Donors and Human Rights Conference.

Mr Mitchell said: "I am flattered to have been appointed to this position and look forward to making a modest contribution to the superb University of Birmingham."

Professor Sir David Eastwood, university vice-chancellor said: "Andrew has taken a keen interest in our international development work for a number of years and supported a number of events for students so I am delighted to welcome Andrew to the university as an honorary professor. Andrew brings a unique perspective and his practical expertise complements the teaching delivered by our academics."

Warden assault suspect due in court

A 19-YEAR-OLD man has been charged after a traffic warden was beaten while on duty. Danyal Bashir, from Hartopp Road, Birmingham, was charged with assaulting Charlie Weston on Saturday.

He has been bailed by police and is due to appear before Birmingham Magistrates' Court on October 16. A 20-year-old man, who was arrested on suspicion of robbery, was bailed pending further enquiries.

It comes after Mr Weston, from Wolverhampton, said he felt 'lucky to be alive' after he was attacked in Alum Rock.

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EXCELLENCE AS STANDARD

Auntie play is awfully big draw

Tickets have been selling fast for the stage adaptation of David Walliams' book Awful Auntie, which comes to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre this month.

Demand has been so great that an extra performance has been arranged. The additional show at 3pm on September 30 follows eight other performances of the play, beginning on September 26.

The show is being presented by Birmingham Stage Company, the group behind the award-winning West End production of Walliams' Gangsta Granny.

Awful Auntie tells the story of Stella, who sets off to visit London with her parents, Lord and Lady Saxby, without realising her life is in danger. Waking up three months later, only her Aunt Alberta can tell Stella what has happened. But can she be trusted? Stella is soon caught up in the fight of her life!

Sales of David Walliams' Awful Auntie book have now reached over a million copies, making the former Little Britain comedian and Britain's Got Talent judge one of the country's best-selling children's authors.

His books have been translated into more than 50 languages, bringing worldwide sales to more than 17 million, and three of his books have won the National Children's Book Awards.

Tickets for Awful Auntie can be bought online at www.grandtheatre.co.uk or by calling 01902 429212.

Kylie is fit and fabulous at 50, bringing her show to Brum

Kylie's new Golden age

It's been a remarkable year for Kylie.

The pint-sized chanteuse celebrated her 50th birthday in style, sang at the Queen's birthday party at the Royal Albert Hall and released a stunning new album, Golden, which went to number one in the UK and Australia.

The Aussie star is back with a new arena tour including a concert at Birmingham's Genting Arena tomorrow night (Friday).

Golden was largely written in Nashville, Tennessee, where Kylie Minogue says she found new inspiration. She co-wrote each track, the first time she had done so since her Impossible Princess record of 1997.

The record followed the break-down of a recent relationship – though it was avowedly not a break-up record.

"The last thing I'd want is a breakup album," she says. "I was done with that. Through! Moved on! And I was so much happier to have moved on.

"It's about me and about where I find myself at this point in my life."

Kylie has embraced 50 in buoyant mood. She says: "On Golden, the line I had in my head was 'we're not young, we're not old, we're golden.' We adapted it for the song. I was often asked 'how does it feel to be a woman your age in this industry?" and I was just over it.

"For my own satisfaction, I wanted to be able to say that we just are who we are at any point in time."

Get Boogie Shoes on for Night Fever

Actor and dancer Richard Winsor, star of TV drama Casualty, will be stepping into John Travolta's dancing shoes when he takes on the role of Tony Manero in theatre mogul Bill Kenwright's new stage production of Saturday Night Fever.

The tour will call at Birmingham's Alexandra Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday, September 25 to 29.

No doubt donning the iconic white suit, Winsor will be hitting the dancefloor in the story of a disco romeo who lives for the weekend.

The show is full of 70s hits from the all-time best-selling movie soundtrack including Boogie Shoes, Disco Inferno and Bee Gees hits Stayin' Alive, Tragedy, How Deep Is Your Love, Night Fever, More Than A Woman, Jive Talkin' and You Should Be Dancing.

Opposite Winsor, who is a former member of Matthew Bourne's acclaimed dance company, will be Kate Parr as Stephanie Manero. Her stage credits include Follies at the National Theatre. There is a supporting cast with lots of West End experience between them.

Whilst paying homage to the movie, this new stage version promises more drama, more music and new choreography. It is directed and produced by Kenwright with choreography by Olivier Award-winning Bill Deamer. The stage adaptation is by Robert Stigwood with Bill Oakes.

Restaurant sets high standards

Situated in Wednesbury town centre with close links to the motorway, The Lamp restaurant is easily reached via most commuter routes.

The traditional Bangladeshi and Indian restaurant has a fully licensed bar and offers a very varied menu.

For those who set high standards for Indian cuisine you will be pleased to know that the head chef won chef of the year in 2013 and is reputation is well known in the area.

Our customers have also rated us Number 1 on Trip Advisor and also been awarded a certificate of excellence.

The restaurant also caters for private parties with a free function room which can seat up to 60 people.

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A spokesman said; "We aim to make your visit at Aashiqs an enjoyable experience so why not book a table today and come and visit The Express & Star Nominated Indian Restaurant Of The Year 2018."

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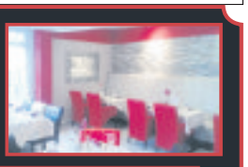
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AT YOUR LEISURE

She impresses us – Shania Twain

Shania's still the one after facing illness and divorce

Queen of country pop music Shania Twain is touring the UK for the first time in 13 years.

She will be in concert at Arena Birmingham on Monday, one of only six UK dates, bringing such hits as That Don't Impress Me Much, You're Still the One and Man! I Feel Like A Woman!

Her long absence from the music scene, following fourth album Up! in 2002 and a tour two years later, was partly due to illness, after contracting Lyme disease and requiring surgery on her vocal chords.

"I never thought I'd sing again," she says. "Lyme disease can be so much more devastating. It can go to your brain. I was too embarrassed to tell anybody that I couldn't sing."

She had also gone through a bitter divorce with producer-songwriter Robert 'Mutt' Lange, who had been her partner for 14 years.

The award-winning Canadian singer/songwriter has sold more than 100 million records, making her the best-selling female artist in country music history and among the best-selling artists of all time.

After a self-titled debut in 1993, her second record provided a breakthrough as The Woman in Me sold 20 million copies. Third album, Come On Over, in 1997 became the best-selling studio album of all-time by a female act in any genre, nearly 40 million copies. It produced singles You're Still the One, From This Moment On and Man! I Feel Like a Woman!, earning four Grammys.

Taking a walk on the wild side, Step By Step

He's been called the bravest – or craziest – man on TV

Simon Reeve, award-winning TV presenter, traveller and adventurer, has made documentaries, written books and travelled around the world several times. He presented the BBC television series Tropic of Cancer, Equator and Tropic of Capricorn, and more recently explored Australia, Greece, Turkey, Russia and Burma.

He has met and interviewed all kinds of people, from desert nomads to spies and terrorst sympathisers, from Imelda Marcos, widow of Filipino dictator Ferdinand Marcos, to Russian mystic Vissarion, who claims to be Jesus Christ reincarnated.

His career is all the more remarkable considering on leaving school in London he had to take a series of dead-end jobs and even considered suicide.

Simon will talk about his remarkable experiences during his first theatre tour, which goes alongside the publication of his inspiring memoir Step By Step.

Summing up his outlook, he says: "We can be held back by our fears and worries – and I wouldn't criticise anybody who was – but we have to take our chances because life is so short." An Audience With Simon Reeve sees the broadcaster share anecdotes from more than 15 years of his travels, at Birmingham Town Hall on Sunday, at Shrewsbury's Theatre Severn on October 18 and Lichfield's Garrick Theatre on November 17.

Explorer Simon Reeve

American movie star is a real stand-up guy

American movie star and comedian Chris Tucker is back on tour of the UK for the first time since his UK debut in 2012, with a date at Arena Birmingham next Thursday, September 27. The 46-year-old from Atlanta is a star of the Rush Hour film series and 2012's Oscar-nominated Silver Linings Playbook.

Scotland's most popular new comedy export, Kevin Bridges, is coming back to the West Midlands as part of his biggest tour to date and has already sold out all of his Birmingham shows during a four-night stint at the city's Hippodrome theatre, which began last night (Wednesday).

Irish stand-up comedian (and presumably sit-down author) Jason Byrne has embarked on a huge nationwide tour with a brand-new show entitled, You Can Come In, But Don't Start Anything, which will reach Birmingham Town Hall on September 29.

Pale Waves – tide turns for the goth-pop group

Goth-pop quartet Pale Waves are playing their biggest headline shows to date this autumn, including a headline at Birmingham's O2 Institute on Tuesday.

The band have followed the success of recent singles Kiss and The Tide as they prove why they've become one of the hottest bands of 2018 with the release of their highly anticipated debut album, My Mind Makes Noises.

Released last week it features the singles There's A Honey, Television Romance and Kiss, plus new single Eighteen, which was premiered as Annie Mac's Hottest Record on BBC Radio 1.

The band formed when Heather Baron-Gracie and Ciara Doran met at university in Manchester in 2014. A few years before that, a childhood back injury had forced Heather to take time off high school, nearly derailing her education.

She says: "I've never clicked with anyone the way I did with Ciara. We're complete opposites: I'm a hothead, and she's very calm and collected. We balance each other out."

Ideal venue for a celebration

The owners at Vujon Classic Indian Restaurant would like to welcome all old and new customers to come and try the award-winning food, which is cooked fresh to order using the finest Indian spices and freshly local ingredients.

A spokesman said: "We also take care, in our takeaway food, to ensure you will receive the same standard that is served in the restaurant.

"We pride ourselves on healthy eating here at Vujon and all our dishes are cooked with no artificial colours or food additives used in our dishes and all our spices that we use are freshly ground in our kitchen."

The restaurant has been decorated to a high modern standard to ensure that all customers have a nice environment to enjoy their meal.

If you are looking for a venue to celebrate your special occasion then look no further than Vujon, staff will cater for all occasions including birthdays, weddings, anniversaries and any other events including business conferences.

The spokesman added: "We look forward to welcoming all our customers old and new here at Vujon."

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At the heart of community

The Curry N Grill sits in the heart of the community in the middle of Stonecross, West Bromwich.

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If it's a takeaway you want, then why not call and place your order with a member of staff and they will ensure your order is ready for you to collect or you can have it delivered free of charge within a three-mile radius.

The Curry N Grill is an award-winning pub/Indian restaurant having won Sandwell Chronicle pub of the year in 2017.

Why not keep up to date on Facebook with all of the latest entertainment on offer, ranging from Elvis tributes to a regular Friday night disco.

Nick the manager welcomes any private functions to take advantage of the function room which is the perfect ideal place to host baby showers, birthday celebrations, weddings and wakes, plus many more.

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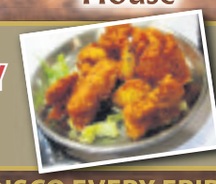

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SATURDAY'S TV SEPTEMBER 22

CHOICE

Claudia Winkleman (left)

Strictly Come Dancing (BBC1, 6.15pm)

The pro-celebrity dance contest makes its return to screens, two weeks after a special introductory programme announced this year's partnerships. Now though, the competition is ready to get under way, as head judge Shirley Ballas and her fellow panellists Bruno Tonioli, Craig Revel Horwood and Darcey Bussell get their first taste of what the dancing duos are capable of achieving. None of the 15 stars taking to the dance floor this weekend will be exiting this week, though. Instead, their scores will carry over to next weekend, when viewers get a chance to vote for their favourite couples.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Nigel Slater: Eating Together. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Champions League of Darts. Coverage of four group-stage matches. **4.30** Final Score. **5.10** BBC News. **5.20** Regional Programme. **5.25** Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present a Strictly Come Dancing version of the general knowledge quiz, with contestants Katya Jones, Joe McFadden, Debbie McGee, Giovanni Pernice, Ore Oduba, Oti Mabuse, Lesley Joseph and AJ Pritchard.

6.15 Strictly Come Dancing. The pro-celebrity contest makes its return to screens, two weeks after a special introductory programme announced this year's partnerships. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present.

8.35 Casualty. Dylan is forced to treat Ciara when she comes into the hospital suffering from abdominal pains. After looking at her symptoms he orders a pregnancy test, which comes back positive. Meanwhile, Iain secures Base a place in rehab, but on the way there, Base disappears, and Duffy makes doctor's appointment and gets Robyn to cover her.

9.25 Killing Eve. In the aftermath of her recent assignment, Villanelle is ordered to take a break, but she goes ahead with her next mission regardless. Meanwhile, after being fired by Frank for the debacle at the hospital, Eve is stunned to be presented with her dream opportunity – a secret, off-the-books department, a mission she is truly invested in, and the chance to build and lead her own team. Her target is Villanelle. Spy thriller, adapted for television by Phoebe Waller-Bridge and starring Jodie Comer and Sandra Oh.

10.10 BBC News; Weather.; National Lottery Update.

10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Cardiff City v Manchester City at the Cardiff City Stadium and Liverpool v Southampton at Anfield.

12.00 The NFL Show. Mark Chapman is joined by former players Osi Umenyiora and Jason Bell to present highlights of Thursday night's game - Cleveland Browns v New York Jets at FirstEnergy Stadium. **12.30** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.35** BBC News.

BBC2

6.35 Top Class. (R) **7.00** Marrying Mum and Dad. (R) **7.30** All Over the Place: Europe. (R) **8.00** The Dengineers. (R) **8.30** Absolute Genius with Dick & Dom. (R) **9.00** Planet Dinosaur. (R) **9.30** Elephant Diaries. (R) **10.00** The Animal's Guide to Britain. (R) **11.00** Natural World: Tiger Island. (R) **12.00** The Incredible Spice Men. (R) **12.30** Great British Menu. (R) **1.00** Great British Menu. (R) **1.30** Tom Kerridge's Proper Pub Food. (R) **2.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **3.00** Scrappers – Back in the Yard. (R) **3.30** Saving Lives at Sea. (R) **4.30** Trust Me, I'm a Doctor. (R) **5.00** Monkman & Seagull's Genius Guide to Britain. (R) **5.30** Ancient Invisible Cities. (R)

6.30 PDC Champions League of Darts. Caroline Barker presents coverage of four further group-stage matches from Brighton Centre, as the third staging of the competition featuring the world's top eight players continues. This session will see the four winners from this afternoon's clashes face each other, while the four losers from those contests will be involved in the other games.

10.30 Performance Live: Hofesh Shechter's Clowns. Ore Oduba introduces the dance film, a macabre comedy of murder and desire, asking how far people will go in the name of entertainment. Directed, choreographed and composed by Hofesh Shechter, it combines bold, exhilarating and tribal movement by 10 dancers with a percussive, cinematic score.

11.00 Film: Dancer. (2016) Premiere. Documentary about Ukrainian dancer Sergei Polunin, who took the dance world by storm and became the Royal Ballet's youngest ever principal before walking away aged 22.

12.20 Film: The Skin I Live In. (2011) A plastic surgeon creates synthetic human skin that is indistinguishable from the real thing. However, nobody knows that he has accomplished this goal by experimenting on a woman he keeps as a hostage in his home – until his maid's criminal son invades the house, and secrets begin coming to light. Pedro Almodovar's thriller, starring Antonio Banderas and Elena Anaya. In Spanish. **2.10** Trust. As word of his grandson's kidnapping spreads, J Paul Getty sends his trusted fixer Fletcher Chace to Rome to investigate the disappearance. Crime drama, starring Donald Sutherland. (R) **3.10** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dana. **6.10** Super 4. (R) **6.25** Super 4. (R) **6.35** Make It Pop. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Cut the Rope: Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.05** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.15** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.30** ToonMarty. (R) **7.40** ToonMarty. (R) **7.55** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.25** Spy School. (R) **8.55** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** James Martin's Saturday Morning. **11.40** The Island Strait. (R) **12.10** ITV News; Weather. **12.25** The X Factor. (R) **1.30** Ninja Warrior UK. (R) **2.30** WOS Wrestling. **3.30** Tipping Point. (R) **4.30** The Chase. (R) **5.30** ITV News; Weather. **5.50** Regional Programme ; Weather.

6.00 Film: Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban. (2004) The teenage wizard is alarmed to learn a dangerous fugitive sorcerer is searching for him. Meanwhile, a new teacher at Hogwarts helps the bespectacled youngster to protect himself from the school's soul-sucking security guards. The third in the fantasy adventure series, starring Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, Rupert Grint, Gary Oldman, David Thewlis, Michael Gambon, Robbie Coltrane and Alan Rickman.

8.35 The X Factor. The SSE Arena Wembley is the location as the audition rounds continue in the talent contest, hosted by Dermot O'Leary. Judges Robbie Williams, Ayda Williams, Louis Tomlinson and Simon Cowell decide who goes through to the Six Chair Challenge, before the competition really heats up later in the year with the live shows.

9.50 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host is joined by Brit award-winning singer†Lily Allen, ahead of the release of her new autobiography, and actor Riz Ahmed, star of Rogue One: A Star Wars Story, Venom and The Night Of. Plus, Jonas Blue, who has platinum singles in more than 20 countries,†will be performing his smash hit Rise.

10.55 ITV News; Weather.

11.15 Film: Van Helsing. (2004) A vampire slayer sets out to help a gypsy princess vanquish Count Dracula and his three brides once and for all. Gothic action adventure, starring Hugh Jackman and Kate Beckinsale.

1.20 Jackpot247. **3.00** Long Lost Family. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.25 Mobil 1: The Grid. **6.50** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.15** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.40** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.35** Frasier. (R) **9.05** Frasier. (R) **9.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.00** The Simpsons. (R) **11.30** The Simpsons. (R) **12.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **1.00** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.30** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.00** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.30** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.00** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.30** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.35** The People's Vet. **5.35** Escape to the Chateau: DIY. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Britain at Low Tide. Tori Herridge explores more tales of Britain's rich maritime history, this time visiting the banks of the Clyde. In Glasgow, she finds evidence of a busy Iron Age waterway and an enormous wall built to channel the water, illustrating the complex relationship between the city and the river it was built upon. (R)

8.00 Egypt's Great Pyramid: The New Evidence. Documentary shedding light on a fresh discovery at the foot of Egypt's Great Pyramid, which may explain how the ancient Egyptians were capable of building such a vast structure without the aid of computers of complex machinery. At the base of the monument, archaeologists have uncovered a relic of Khufu, the pharaoh whose remains were interred in the Great Pyramid. What they found was a ceremonial boat, laid out in "flat-pack" form, which may prove to be the key in explaining the crucial role ships and water played in the pyramids' construction. (R)

9.00 Film: Gods of Egypt. (2016) Premiere. An ancient Egyptian god is driven into exile when his evil brother murders their father and seizes his throne. He enlists the aid of a human thief in restoring justice, and in return offers to help the mortal to bring his murdered lover back to life. Fantasy adventure, starring Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, Brenton Thwaites, Gerard Butler and Chadwick Boseman.

11.25 Film: 13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi. (2016) Fact-based action thriller, with John Krasinski.

2.00 Experimental. (R) **2.55** Hollyoaks. (R) **5.00** Vet on the Hill. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.35** The Wonderful World of Puppies. (R) **11.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **3.25** Bad Tenants, Rogue Landlords. (R) **4.25** Bad Tenants, Rogue Landlords. (R) **5.25** Rich House, Poor House. (R)

6.20 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! The debt collectors take action to serve a writ issued for the organiser of a music festival. (R)

7.05 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! Agents Max and Steve in East London try to recover over £7,000 owed by a restaurant owner for an unpaid gas bill, while officers Gareth and Mitch in Gloucestershire seek just under £3,000 from the owner of a car wash. Stewart and Vic are in Manchester trying to recover nearly £5,000 owed by a blinds and shutters supplier to a dissatisfied customer. (R)

8.05 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! Officers Gary and Cona chase up nearly £50,000 in unpaid rent, and Del and Max bid to collect more than £10,000 from a beauty salon for a disgruntled former employee. (R)

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 How the Victorians Built Britain. Michael Buerk looks at the creation of mass manufacturing, which meant that goods could be produced at a rate that had never been seen before. In Manchester, he learns how engineer George Stephenson created the first intercity railway, so that cotton could be transported quickly and cheaply from Liverpool docks to Manchester's mills. Michael also discovers how the sewing machine – newly created in 1851 – created the rag trade, and visits what was probably the first shopping mall in the UK, the Burlington Arcade in London. Last in the series.

10.00 The Forth Rail Bridge: Britain's Greatest Bridges. Rob Bell reveals the story behind the construction of the Forth Rail Bridge and how its incredible engineering achievement was born from tragedy and paid for in blood. (R)

11.05 Jack the Ripper: Missing Evidence. (R)

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** Britain by Bike with Larry & George Lamb. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Secrets of Our Living Planet **8.00** Big Cats **9.00** Mystery Road **10.50** Timeshift: Gagging for It – TV's Hunger for Radio Comedy **11.50** Top of the Pops: 1986 **12.20** Great Guitar Riffs at the BBC **1.20** Secrets of Our Living Planet **2.20** Big Cats **3.20** Close

ITV2

12.00 You've Been Framed! Gold **12.55 Film:** Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over (2003) **1.55** FYI Daily **2.00 Film:** Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over (2003) **2.40** The X Factor **3.45 Film:** Paul Blart: Mall Cop (2009) **4.50** FYI Daily **4.55 Film:** Paul Blart: Mall Cop (2009) **5.35 Film:** Battleship (2012) **6.45** FYI Daily **6.50 Film:** Battleship (2012) **8.00 Film:** Hellboy II: The Golden Army (2008) **9.10** FYI Daily **9.15 Film:** Hellboy II: The Golden Army (2008) **10.20** Celebrity Juice **11.10** Family Guy **12.35** American Dad! **1.35** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records: Bonkingly Big Hits **2.25** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

3.05 Film: Carry On Camping (1969) **4.55** Lewis **7.00** Midsomer Murders **9.00** Endeavour **11.00** Vera **1.00** On the Buses **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

12.00 Pawn Stars **1.30** ITV Racing: Live from Ayr **4.15** World Cup Top Goalscorers **4.30** Pawn Stars **5.55 Film:** Where Eagles Dare (1968) **6.55** FYI Daily **7.00 Film:** Where Eagles Dare (1968) **9.00 Film:** Rocky IV (1985) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05 Film:** Rocky IV (1985) **11.05 Film:** Universal Soldier: Regeneration (2009) **12.20** FYI Daily **12.25 Film:** Universal Soldier: Regeneration (2009) **1.00** Better Late Than Never **1.55** Minder **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

12.05 The Goldbergs **1.05** The Big Bang Theory **3.00** The Great British Bake Off **4.15** The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice **5.15** Extreme Cake Makers **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Die Hard 2 (1990) **11.25** Gogglebox **1.30** Rude Tube **2.30** Gogglebox **3.25** Celebs Go Dating **4.15** Brooklyn Nine-Nine

Film4

11.00 The Indian in the Cupboard (1995) **1.00** Capture the Flag (2015) **2.50** Megamind (2010) **4.45** Cocoon (1985) **7.00** X-Men (2000) **9.00** The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (2013) **11.45** The Transporter (2002) **1.30** Crimson Peak (2015) **3.55** Close

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CHOICE

Richard Madden

Bodyguard (BBC1, 9pm)
David makes a major breakthrough as he goes in search of the truth behind the attack on Julia. However, his interference in the case has placed him in mortal danger, and he comes to realise that there is no one left who believes his story. With time rapidly running out, he faces a battle to prove his innocence in the face of mounting evidence against him. Jed Mercurio's six-part political thriller comes to a conclusion with an extended final episode. Starring Richard Madden, Gina McKee and Nina Toussaint-White. Last in the series.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **8.30** Match of the Day. (R) **10.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **11.00** Regional Programme. **11.30** Sunday Morning Live. **12.30** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News. **1.15** Hold the Sunset. (R) **1.45** Hold the Sunset. (R) **2.15** Money for Nothing. (R) **3.00** Points of View. **3.15** Songs of Praise. **3.50** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.50** Shop Well for Less? (R) **5.50** Pointless Celebrities. (R)

6.35 BBC News.

6.50 Regional Programme.

7.00 Countryfile. Matt Baker and Anita Rani present coverage of the 2018 One Man and His Dog contest from the village of Llansteffan, south Wales, featuring teams from England, Wales, Ireland and Scotland, each comprised of a veteran shepherd and a child in training. Anita also takes a trip on a ferry across the Tywi estuary and discovers how cockles are one of the area's richest natural resources. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce visits the Parliament Buildings at Stormont Estate in Belfast, which has played a huge role in Northern Ireland's political history. An unloved muffin dish holds a surprise and Justin Croft spots an unread copy of Ulysses by James Joyce. John Foster delves underground into Belfast's 18th-century water system with an old wooden water pipe, while Adam Schoon meets a man with a phenomenal George Best collection.

9.00 Bodyguard. David has made a major breakthrough in his investigation, but his search for the truth has placed him in danger and he faces a fight to prove his innocence. Last in the series.

10.15 BBC News.

10.35 Regional Programme.

10.45 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman presents highlights of the day's two Premier League fixtures – West Ham United v Chelsea at the London Stadium and Arsenal v Everton at the Emirates Stadium.

11.45 The Women's Football Show. A look at the biggest issues in the women's game, focusing on matters at both club and international level.

12.20 Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.25 BBC News.

BBC2

6.35 Around the World in 80 Gardens. (R) **7.35** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.35** Countryfile. (R) **9.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Great British Menu. (R) **12.00** Great British Menu. (R) **12.30** Great British Menu. (R) **1.00** PDC Champions League of Darts. Coverage of the concluding group-stage matches from Brighton Centre, as the third staging of the competition featuring the world's top eight players continues. **4.30** World Equestrian Games. **5.30** Grammar Schools: Who Will Get In? (R)

6.30 PDC Champions League of Darts. Caroline Barker presents coverage of the semi-finals and final from Brighton Centre, as the players to have progressed through the group stage hope to claim the £100,000 first prize. These matches will take place over the best of 21 legs, as the winner of the third staging of this tournament is set to be decided.

10.00 Mock the Week. Host Dara O Briain and regular Hugh Dennis are joined by guests Ed Byrne, Ed Gamble, Kerry Godliman, Nish Kumar and Rachel Parris. (R)

10.30 No Activity. Stokes has had to go back to the station for a chat about the shooting incident, so Hendy is joined by an American detective. Carol shares romantic reminiscences with April.

10.55 No Activity. After weeks of surveillance, the drugs bust finally gets underway. However, Hendy is frustrated that he and Stokes are too far from the action. Last in the series.

11.20 The Mighty Redcar. Netball prodigy Safy has been awarded a partial scholarship – but her mum still needs to find some of the money. Bean and Tom face a big decision when a job offer comes their way. (R)

12.05 American Justice. When he was 12 years old, Sharron Townsend was arrested for shooting a homeless man in the head. Now aged 14, he is facing justice. As this edition reveals, in Florida, children can be transferred to adult courts at the discretion of the State Attorney, so there is no upper limit on Sharron's sentence. Cameras also follow Jeremiah Hill, who shot a man during a gun trade when he was 13 years old. Now the justice system must decide how best to protect society. (R) **1.05** Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **2.05** Holby City. (R) **3.00** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dana. **6.10** Super 4. (R) **6.25** Super 4. (R) **6.35** Make It Pop. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Cut the Rope: Om Nom Stories. **7.05** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.15** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.30** ToonMarty. (R) **7.40** ToonMarty. (R) **7.55** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.25** Spy School. (R) **8.55** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Cannonball. (R) **10.20** Ninja Warrior UK. (R) **11.20** WOS Wrestling. (R) **12.20** The X Factor. (R) **1.35** ITV News; Weather. **1.45** £10k Holiday Home. (R) **2.15** Emmerdale 1918. (R) **2.45** Catchphrase. (R) **3.30** Tenable. (R) **4.30** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. (R) **5.30** The Chase. (R)

6.30 ITV News; Weather.

6.45 Regional Programme; Weather.

7.00 5 Gold Rings. Game show, hosted by Phillip Schofield, in which two siblings and a team of firemen compete to answer visual questions by placing rings on an LED floor. Viewers can play along using the series app.

8.00 The X Factor. The audition rounds continue in the talent contest, hosted by Dermot O'Leary, with judges Robbie Williams, Ayda Williams, Louis Tomlinson and Simon Cowell deciding who goes through.

9.00 Vanity Fair. The battle of Waterloo gets underway, with George fighting in the thick of it. Amelia fears for her husband's life, while Jos is far more worried about himself, despite being miles from the front line. Becky sees an opportunity to make a profit from the chaos of war by selling Rawdon's horses – knowing that the cowardly Jos will pay her anything for a way to escape.

10.05 The Imitation Game. Alexander Armstrong hosts the panel show, with Rory Bremner, Debra Stephenson, Luke Kempner and Kate Robbins performing a spoof of Downton Abbey and finding a date for Kim Woodburn.

10.45 ITV News; Weather.

11.05 Joanna Lumley's Silk Road Adventure. Joanna Lumley follows the Silk Road from the Black Sea to the Caspian Sea, travelling across the post-Soviet states of Georgia and Azerbaijan. (R)

12.05 Strangers. (R) **12.55** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. (R) **3.50** British Superbike Championship Highlights. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Motorsport: Volkswagen Racing Cup. **6.45** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.10** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.25 Film:** ParaNorman. (2012) **3.20** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **4.35** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.35** Grand Designs. (R)

6.35 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Cruises from Hell: Caught on Camera. A cautionary roll-call of nautical nightmares demonstrating what can happen when people venture out on water. From vast cruise ships and ferries pounded by extraordinary weather, to near-death experiences on board vessels that catch fire and sink, the documentary reveals incredible moments, as told by the survivors, while psychologists discuss the seaborne anxieties people could experience on vessels ranging from the largest ships to small canoes. (R)

8.00 Battle of Britain: Model Squadron. The modellers reach Battle of Britain Day – 15 September 1940, when the RAF threw everything at the massed squadrons of Luftwaffe that were trying to attack London. It was on this day that Douglas Bader's controversial tactic, the Big Wing, was successfully deployed as five squadrons flew together in tight formation. The RAF modellers must try to bring to life a model Big Wing, getting all of their planes in the sky at once and flying in formation before their final dogfight with the model Luftwaffe. Last in the series.

9.00 Celebrity Island with Bear Grylls. The castaways efforts to catch fish have yielded no results over the first 10 days on the island, so Montana Brown and Anthony Ogogo change tactics by going hunting for meat.

10.00 The Circle. Series assessing the impact of social media, in which individuals from all walks of life compete in a popularity contest to win up to £50,000.

11.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts. (R)

12.00 Film: Queen and Country. (2014) **2.05** Mobil 1: The Grid. (R) **2.30** Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb. (R) **3.25** Grand Designs Australia. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.10** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.15** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **6.30** Luo Bao Bei. (R) **6.40** Digby Dragon. (R) **6.50** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.00** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.15** Bob the Builder. (R) **7.30** Rusty Rivets. **7.45** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.25** Nella the Princess Knight. (R) **8.45** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.00** Pirata & Capitano. **9.15** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **9.30** Floogals. (R) **9.50** Paw Patrol. (R) **10.00** Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.20** Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.35** Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud 3. (R) **11.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.55** Friends. (R) **12.25** Friends. (R) **12.55** Friends. (R) **1.25** Friends. (R) **1.55** Friends. (R) **2.25** Friends. (R) **2.55** Friends. (R) **3.25** Friends. (R) **3.55** Friends. (R) **4.20** Friends. (R) **4.50 Film:** Along Came Polly. (2004) Romantic comedy, starring Ben Stiller and Jennifer Aniston. **5.50** Access. **5.55 Film:** Along Came Polly. (2004) Concluded.

6.30 Film: King Kong. (2005) Maverick film-maker Carl Denham and his cast and crew board a ship bound for a mysterious island – but when they arrive, a giant gorilla carries off their leading lady, Ann Darrow. As the crew makes its way through the teeming jungle to find her, the director concocts a dangerous scheme to capture the great ape and take it back to New York. Peter Jackson's remake of the fantasy adventure, starring Naomi Watts, Jack Black, Adrien Brody and Andy Serkis, in a dual role as the ship's cook and motion-captured creature. Edited for language, violence and tone.

7.30 5 News Update.

7.35 Film: King Kong. (2005) Concluded.

9.55 5 News Weekend.

10.00 Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.

11.30 20 Moments That Rocked Britain. Documentary looking back at major news events from the past 40 years that made a lasting impression on the British public. (R)

1.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** HMS Victory: Nelson's Great Warship. (R) **4.00** Tribal Teens. (R) **4.45** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.10** House Doctor. (R) **5.35** Great Artists. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 The Leeds International Piano Competition 2018 **8.30** What Do Artists Do All Day? **9.00** James May's Cars of the People **10.00** Roman Britain: A Timewatch Guide **11.00** Roger Bannister: Everest on the Track **12.00** The Last Explorers **1.00** Treasures of Ancient Greece **2.00** Pappano's Classical Voices **3.00** James May's Cars of the People **4.00** Close

ITV2
1.05 Film: The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **2.10** FYI Daily **2.15 Film:** The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **2.55** The X Factor **4.10 Film:** Despicable Me (2010) **5.10** FYI Daily **5.15 Film:** Despicable Me (2010) **6.00 Film:** The LEGO Movie (2014) **7.05** FYI Daily **7.10 Film:** The LEGO Movie (2014) **8.00 Film:** Quantum of Solace (2008) **9.00** FYI Daily **9.05 Film:** Quantum of Solace (2008) **10.10** Family Guy **11.35** American Dad! **12.35** The Cleveland Show **1.05** Ghosted **1.25** Release the Hounds **2.25** Teleshopping

ITV3
2.55 Film: Columbo Goes to the Guillotine (1989) **4.50** Foyle's War **9.00** The Good Karma Hospital **11.00** Wire in the Blood **1.05** A Touch of Frost **2.55** Road to Avonlea **4.35** Judge Judy

ITV4
1.50 Film: Police Academy 2: Their First Assignment (1985) **2.50** FYI Daily **2.55 Film:** Police Academy 2: Their First Assignment (1985) **3.40 Film:** Where Eagles Dare (1968) **4.40** FYI Daily **4.45 Film:** Where Eagles Dare (1968) **6.50 Film:** Tobruk (1967) **7.50** FYI Daily **7.55 Film:** Tobruk (1967) **9.00 Film:** Rocky V (1990) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05 Film:** Rocky V (1990) **11.10 Film:** Source Code (2011) **12.10** FYI Daily **12.15 Film:** Source Code (2011) **1.00** The Protectors **1.35** Minder **2.35** British Touring Cars – Crashes and Smashes **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
11.15 The Goldbergs **1.20** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.20** Young Sheldon **3.20** The Big Bang Theory **6.50 Film:** Back to the Future Part II (1989) **9.00** Krypton **10.00** The Inbetweeners **11.05** The Big Bang Theory **12.00** Tattoo Fixers: Extreme **1.10** The Inbetweeners **2.15** Krypton

Film4
1.00 Stuart Little 2 (2002) **2.35** The House of Magic (2013) **4.20** The Jewel of the Nile (1985) **6.40** Suffragette (2015) **9.00** The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 1 (2014) **11.20** The Sweeney (2012) **1.35** No (2012) **4.00** Close

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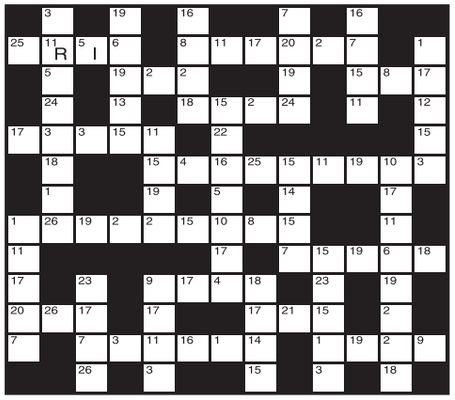
BRAIN GYM

No.498

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



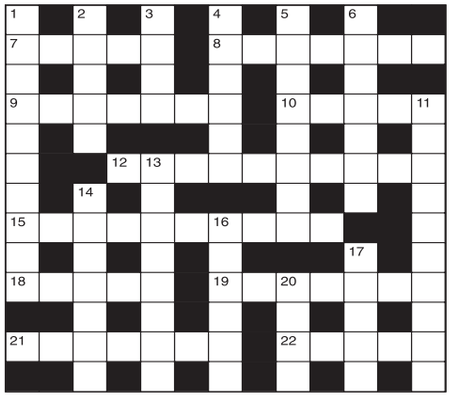
1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5 I	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11 R	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
S	A	Q	Y	F	I	U	X	H	M	C	Z	J
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
V	G	N	L	O	W	E	K	P	R	T	D	B

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues – both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

7. Fruit of the melon variety (5)
8. Possible purse of plenty (7)
9. He escaped to become famous (7)
10. Different route further from the centre (5)
12. Not against change though it's the wrong condition for it (10)
15. Show little promise as a sculptor (5,5)
18. Loudly call out after a plea for silence (5)
19. Something a tanner will buy! (7)
21. Stops in crooked side streets (7)
22. A temple ornament? (5)

Down

1. They tried to extract gold from St. Michael's (10)
2. Affair of love in a rum setting (5)
3. It turns up after an opponent (4)
4. Water-bound (6)
5. One line future travellers may take (8)
6. Dock or rail cut reviewed (7)
11. Don't maintain a well-balanced pace? (3,4,3)
13. A trieste composition (8)
14. Brave child backed by the mother (7)
16. Stop doing wrong (6)
17. Put six on the vehicle for the clergyman (5)
20. Keep them about you for emergencies (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

7. Fat (5)
8. Joy (7)
9. Realm (7)
10. Vagrant (5)
12. Detail (10)
15. Trifling offence (10)
18. Recover (5)
19. Laborious (7)
21. Straddling (7)
22. Vision (5)

Down

1. Accountant (10)
2. Agency (5)
3. Lean (4)
4. Allow (6)
5. Of ships (8)
6. Maim (7)
11. Waywardness (10)
13. Resolution (8)
14. Assistant (7)
16. Idols (6)
17. Strong (5)
20. Elan (4)

Sudoku

	2		6			4		
	1	3	7					5
		5		3			2	
9				8		6		
	5	1	4		2		9	
		7		9				8
				1	5			4
1	4				8	2	5	
		9			6		7	

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

9	5	1	6	3	2	8	4	7
2	7	6	4	1	8	3	9	5
3	4	8	9	7	5	1	6	2
1	8	7	2	4	3	9	5	6
5	2	4	1	9	6	7	8	3
6	9	3	8	5	7	2	1	4
4	3	9	7	6	1	5	2	8
8	6	5	3	2	9	4	7	1
7	1	2	5	8	4	6	3	9

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Overseers; 8 Lee; 9 Reciprocate; 11 Rampage; 12 Piper; 13 Curare; 15 Ordain; 17 Limit; 18 Crackle; 20 Self-control; 22 Cue; 23 Stallions. Down: 2 Vie; 3 Sepia; 4 Evoked; 5 Sharper; 6 Sleepwalker; 7 Rearrange; 10 Compromised; 11 Recollect; 14 Rattles; 16 Acacia; 19 Annul; 21 Own. QUICK - Across: 1 Knowledge; 8 Run; 9 Approximate; 11 Precede; 12 Thong; 13 Shindy; 15 Script; 17 Phial; 18 Brevity; 20 Antecedence; 22 Eat; 23 Desperate. Down: 2 Nip; 3 Loose; 4 Driver; 5 Elastic; 6 Premonition; 7 Unsightly; 10 Precipitate; 11 Postponed; 14 Dilated; 16 Abacus; 19 Endue; 21 Cut.

Quiz

1. How is a leucocyte more commonly known?
2. What is the name of the Russian space station visited by the shuttle Atlantis?
3. In which city was the first underground train line opened, in 1863?
4. What do the letters UHF stand for?
5. Which Virginian star lost his fight against cancer in 1995?
6. What is a jerboa?
7. What nationality was the pioneering sixteenth-century astronomer Tycho Brahe?
8. Which physician coined the word vaccination?
9. Which tribe did Crazy Horse lead?
10. Which aircraft safety device was invented by British engineer James Martin?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Eland; 2 Kramer vs Kramer; 3 Succubus; 4 Seaweeds; 5 Walter de la Mare; 6 Czechoslovakia; 7 Whale; 8 Lazarus; 9 NATO; 10 George IV.

Niner: CREDULITY

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

5727 gives a song,
578896 gives a poem,
34319 gives a saying.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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Relax and enjoy some early Christmas celebrations in Cornwall. Winter is a great time to enjoy the crisp clean air, explore the atmospheric streets of seaside towns and villages and view the rugged coastline bathed in a magical light.

Your break includes
- Return coach travel from Walsall, Cannock & Wolverhampton
- 4 nights at the Pentire Hotel, Newquay with breakfast & dinner (includes traditional 'Christmas' dinner with a complimentary glass of wine)
- Entertainment every night
- Afternoon tea and Christmas cake on Boxing Day
- Excursions to St Ives, Penzance & Falmouth

Optional excursion to the Eden Project (£20pp)

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CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS
in Cheshire
Departing Sunday 23 Dec

Truly a Christmas getaway to remember, join us to enjoy the best the North West of England has to offer at this festive time of year; from enjoying a traditional pantomime to exploring Cheshire's capital of Chester, one of Britain's best-preserved historic cities.

Your break includes
- Return coach travel from Walsall, Cannock & Wolverhampton
- 4 nights at a selected hotel in the North West area with breakfast & dinner. Christmas Day includes breakfast, a traditional Christmas lunch and a light evening buffet
- Welcome drink, porterage, after dinner tea & coffee and light entertainment every night
- Pantomime ticket
- Excursions to Manchester & Chester

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in Torquay
Departing Sunday 23 Dec

The English Riviera's beautiful coastline is the setting for our Christmas break. We'll be based in Torquay, one of Britain's most stylish resorts thanks to its international marina and stunning bays, where the bracing sea air is bound to rejuvenate and relax.

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- Return coach travel from Walsall, Cannock & Wolverhampton
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- Welcome drink, Christmas Day lunch & entertainment every night
- Afternoon tea, cake and quiz on Christmas Eve & Boxing Day and afternoon bingo on Christmas Day
- Pantomime ticket
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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Modern home is spacious and immaculate

Being immaculate, modern and spacious, this three-bedroomed, three-storey semi-detached house in Monksway, Kings Norton, Birmingham, is available to rent through loveyourpostcode.com at £850 per calendar month.

This lovely un-furnished three bedroom semi-detached town home sits in the heart of Kings Norton only a stone's throw away from an exclusive development in Walkers Heath.

It is ideally situated for commuting links to Birmingham City Centre and the motorway networks.

It has a spacious hallway with a downstairs WC, a modern kitchen with high gloss wall mounted and floor based units including integrated appliances with plenty of light bathing through. There is a spacious lounge with patio doors opening into the garden.

On the first floor are two double bedrooms (with bedroom two currently being used as a study) and a bathroom with a three piece suite. The third double bedroom is situated on the top floor.

This property benefits from gas central heating and double glazing with modern grey carpets throughout. This home also includes a driveway and a garage.

Located in Walkers Heath, this home is ideally situated with local schooling including Pool Farm and Primrose Hill within walking distance. This popular residential area offers easy access to motorway links and just a short walk to Walkers Heath Park and many rural walks.

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PROPERTY

Charming 18th century detached character cottage

A charming 18th century detached character property, Ivy Cottage in Lichfield Road, Armitage, Rugeley, lies in grounds of just over a third of an acre.

In peaceful and picturesque countryside between Lichfield and Armitage, it is for sale through Lovett & Co at £595,000.

The three-bedroom property includes a further fully refurbished detached cottage ideal for an extended family or as a potential income stream as a rental or short term let.

ARMITAGE
£595,000

A stand out feature is the surrounding landscaped gardens backing onto fields at the rear, a real working well in the front garden, a separate double garage, gravel driveways for the main building and annexe, and character features including exposed ceiling beams and inglenook fireplaces.

The property has two floors. On the ground floor is a porch, sitting room/diner, a lounge, sitting room/study, kitchen, utility, bathroom and WC.

On the first floor there is a separate WC, three double bedrooms with an en-suite to the master bedroom.

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5 Business & Farming

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6 Property

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For further details on the current vacancies within Oliver Kay Wednesbury, please call 07761 659 616 or 07738 607 868 for chat or send your details/CV to recruitment@oliverkayproduce.co.uk

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SALARY SCALE: Band G (£34,106 to £39,002)

We are seeking to appoint a dynamic, committed and well-qualified System Manager to oversee the smooth running and development of both hardware and software elements of our ICT system.

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Please complete all sections of the application form, together with a supporting letter of no more than two sides of A4 stating your suitability for the post.

Completed application forms can be emailed to **admin@woodgreenacademy.co.uk** with the subject line **"Systems Manager"**, or, posted to the school marked, **"Systems Manager Vacancies"**

Closing date: Noon on Friday 28th September 2018

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

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8 Motoring

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DIESEL

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(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Walsall Road, Walsall) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2018 has made an Order to temporarily prohibit vehicles from proceeding along Walsall Road, Walsall with junction Greenside Way. Traffic will be diverted via Walsall Road, West Bromwich Road, Broadway West, Wallows Lane, Bescot Road, Wood Green Road, Walsall Street, Hydes Road, Hall Green Road and vice-versa. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 23/09/2018, effective from 23/09/2018. Purpose – works to reset four sunken valve boxes by Balfour Beatty for Cadent Gas.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Western Road, Oldbury) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2018 has made an Order to temporarily prohibit vehicles from proceeding along Western Road, Oldbury between Tat Bank Road and Crosswells Road. Traffic will be diverted via Crosswells Road, Vicarage Road, Tat Bank Road and vice-versa. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 05/10/2018, effective from 24/09/2018. Purpose – works to install new supply by Western Power Distribution.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Jeffrey Road, Rowley Regis) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2018 has made an Order to temporarily prohibit vehicles from proceeding along Jeffrey Road,Rowley Regis between Titford Lane and Uplands Avenue. Traffic will be diverted via York Road, Titford Lane, Oldbury Road and vice-versa. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 12/10/2018, effective from 24/09/2018. Purpose – works to facilitate gas connections by Balfour Beatty for Cadent Gas.

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regeneration & Growth
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015

I hereby give notice that Sandwell Council has received the following applications under the planning acts which it is required to give public notice for the reason given at the beginning of each group of applications.

This is a major application.

DC/18/62186	Persimmon Homes	Land Adjacent and Rear of 37 & Land Adjacent 100 Phoenix Street, West Bromwich B70 0AS	Proposed erection of 132 dwellings and associated works.

Members of the public may inspect copies of these applications at Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE (between 8.45a.m. and 5.30p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Wednesday and 8.45a.m. to 5p.m. Friday) or via the Council's Public Access website (www.sandwell.gov.uk).

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications can do so via the website, or should write to the Council at the above address within 21 days (and 21 days for Listed Building or Conservation Area consent) of the date of this advertisement quoting the application reference number.

AMY HARHOFF, Director of Regeneration & Growth

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Portway Road, Wednesbury) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2018 intends to temporarily prohibit vehicles from proceeding along Portway Road between Dudley Street and Monway Terrace. Traffic will be diverted via Monway Terrace, Holyhead Road, Dudley Street and vice-versa. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 02/10/2018, effective from 01/10/18. Purpose – works to sit a cherry picker in the road to access building to paint cladding by Nationwide Platforms for Alligator Self Storage.

10 Personals

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ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984-SECTION 14(1)(a) THE M5 MOTORWAY (JUNCTION 3, BIRMINGHAM) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2018

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Highways England Company Limited (Company No. 9346363) has made an Order on the M5 Motorway, in the City of Birmingham, to allow bridge inspection works to be carried out.

The effect of the Order will be to close the slip road leading to the southbound carriageway of the M5 at Junction 3.

The work will be carried out over one night between 21:30 hours and 05:30 hours and is expected to start on Monday 1 October 2018. The order will come into force on 24 September 2018.

Vehicles being used for police, fire and rescue authority, ambulance or traffic officer purposes and vehicles being used in connection with the works will be exempt from the closure.

A diversion route via the M5 Junction 2 will be signed.

For further information please contact Dennis Wheeler on 0300 470 3458.

Karen Eustace, an officer in Highways England Company Limited.

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16-16	Hyundai i20 1.2 SE 5 Door, White, 17293mls	£8,985	£8,685
15-65	Hyundai i30 Premium 1.6 CRDi 136ps 5Dr, Grey, 28727mls	£10,685	£9,985
14-64	Hyundai iX35 SE Nav Crdi, Black, 28752mls	£11,685	£10,985
17-67	Hyundai Ioniq Se Hev S-A, Blue, 1345mls	£17,485	£16,985
18-67	Hyundai Tucson 1.7 SE Nav, Blue, 8500mls	£20,485	£16,985
	NON FRANCHISE		
10-10	Ford ka 1.2 Studio 3Dr, Yellow, 41131mls		£3,685

		WAS	NOW
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10-10	C3 Picasso 1.6 Exclusive HDI, Grey, 52259mls	£4,985	£4,585
13-13	Bmw 120d M Sport Coupe, Black, 34939mls	£11,485	£11,000
15-15	BMW 320 d Luxury Saloon A/T, Blue, 28893mls	£18,000	£15,985
15-15	Jeep Renegrade Ltd M-Jet 1.6 Limited, White, 18087mls	£13,985	£12,985
15-15	Mazda 2 Sports Launch Edition, Blue, 12353mls	£9,685	£9,485
15-15	Mazda Mx-5 I RD-TER 1.8 Sport Venture, Grey, 18950mls	£14,485	£13,985
14-14	Peugeot 208 Gti Thp, White, 32615mls	£9,485	£9,345
14-64	Mini Paceman John Cooper Works, Black, 12527mls		£17,985
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The two new sporty models are part of Kia's push as a dynamic choice

Kia bolsters performance line-up with racy additions

Kia has added two sporty new models to its Ceed range, as part of a push to cement it as a dynamic choice in the family hatchback market.

The first addition is the new Proceed, a shooting brake-style estate which splits the difference between the existing Sportswagon and a coupe.

The Proceed takes its front fascia from the hatch but it's totally different from there on back, with a slinky body and sloping roofline. It's 5mm longer than the Sportswagon estate, but an impressive 43mm lower – with some of that coming from a 5mm drop in ride height for a sportier stance. The rear of the car sees a full-width LED light bar and angular exhaust trim.

Available exclusively in GT-Line and GT trim, the Proceed will be offered with a choice of three petrol engines and a single diesel, with six-speed manual or seven-speed dual-clutch automatic gearboxes.

The interior is unchanged, and Kia says it's slightly lowered the rear bench to compensate for the lack of headroom from that sloping roofline.

Adding to Kia's range is another new model – the Ceed GT. This is a straight replacement for the old model. With 201bhp from its 1.6-litre turbocharged petrol engine, the Ceed GT sits in between standard family hatchbacks and full-on hot hatches such as the Hyundai i30 N.

It's not just an engine upgrade, though, as the Ceed GT also gains suspension tweaks, a lower ride height and sportier styling.

The 'ice cube' daytime running lights are carried over from the last model, while a honeycomb grille, glossy diffuser and small roof spoiler give it a dynamic look. Performance data is set to be released at a later date.

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Out on the water and stil time to smile for the camera

Members of Wolverhampton Canoe Club ready for one of their weekly sessions Pictures Alan Fogarasy

Hobby or competition, it is ideal for all ages

Instructor Marcin Kruczynski with his daughter Kornelia

Hidden gem provides an oar-some activity

IF you dream of relaxing strolls, connecting with nature or simply finding a new hobby to keep you active, the answer could be hiding right before your eyes.

Wolverhampton Canoe Club, in Oxley Moor Road, may have been founded back in 1956, but it remains one of the city's hidden gems.

With direct access to the Staffordshire and Worcestershire canal, the friendly group welcomes people who want to take to the water for a whole host of reasons.

Whether you fancy taking a gentle paddle to relax and connect with nature, or you want to compete against others on courses designed to test – everyone is catered for.

The club is run by volunteers who are led by chairwoman Sharon Tarbuck, whose father was one of the club's founder members.

Friendly

And she believes the organisation provides the perfect environment for anyone looking to take up a new hobby.

"Wolverhampton Canoe Club is a family friendly club that is open to absolutely everyone," Sharon said.

"The Staffordshire and Worcestershire canal is beautiful and it's so relaxing when you are out there having a casual paddle, there is no hustle or bustle.

"Canoeing can be very therapeutic. It allows you to connect with wildlife and also keeps you fit. But we also have members who want to progress and who compete in races and slaloms.

"Whatever you want to do you can do it, everything is at your own pace but we are an encompassing club and there will be plenty of people happy to help."

While some people may be anxious about stepping into a canoe and onto the water, she says it doesn't take long to pick up the skills you need.

"Some people pick it up very quickly, others take a while," she said. "But we can go through it in baby steps.

"We run five-week courses and the first session is as simple as learning to sit in the boat. We then introduce you to strokes and other basic things.

"Our youngest member is seven-years-old, our oldest is 78-years-old and we recently had someone join us who is registered blind.

SPORTING FEATURE

By Joseph Masi

"For a lot of members, canoeing is about getting out there and exploring at a nice pace of life. Everyone can progress at their own rate."

"For a lot of members, canoeing is about getting out there and exploring at a nice pace of life. Everyone can progress at their own rate."

Open for four sessions a week, the club has junior and adult teams that have tasted success in regional competitions.

Members also hold their own annual race between Ironbridge and Bridgnorth on the River Severn.

The overall aim of the club, though, is for people to relax and enjoy themselves.

"I'd definitely recommend people take up canoeing," she added.

Safe

"It's very enjoyable and Wolverhampton is a club that is run by volunteers and is family friendly with parents bringing down their children and having a great time on the water.

"It's very safe. We like people to go off in groups of three. And membership wise we are doing very well, we have new people wanting to get involved on a weekly basis.

"For safety, you can't join until you have done a course. But after that you can paddle away.

"If anyone is interested in joining give us a call because there are so many benefits to joining."

For more information on Wolverhampton Canoe Club visit http://www.wolverhamptoncanoeclub.co.uk/ or call 07506903500.

Youngster Kai Drysdale

Young golfer misses school to land trophy

A 12-year-old golfer who hit her first ball as a three-year-old is preparing for a round of a lifetime after beat thousands of amateur golfers across England to win the Bridgestone Chase Your Dream Trophy.

Isabelle Badger, of Halesowen Golf Club, won the final of the competition, run by England Golf, at the pro-am of the Bridgestone Challenge at Luton Hoo, following a number of qualification stages.

She joined Spencer Burlingham from Essex and Martin Derrick from Sussex in the triumphant team, and they now go on to play in the pro-am of the Sky Sports British Masters at Walton Heath on October 10.

The youngster was meant to be back in the classroom at Pedmore High School, Stourbridge, for the first day of the new term, but was given special dispensation to play in the final of the Chase Your Dream Trophy – and now has a trophy to take back to the next school assembly.

The 13 handicapper, said: "It feels amazing! My own dream is to become a professional golfer one day."

'Missile' rides in as guest of Cycle Show

FORMER world champion Mark Cavendish MBE will be a guest at this year's Cycle Show at the NEC in Birmingham. The UK's national cycling showcase takes place from September 28 to 30.

The Manx Missile, who has 146 professional victories to his name including 48 Grand Tour wins and the 2011 World Championships, will appear alongside a star-studded list of riders.

The public will have a chance to quiz Cavendish in a Q&A on the final day. He will also share tales of his journey from riding BMX as a child to being at the top of his sport. He will sign autographs and pose for photos in the VIP Lounge.

Visitors can try and buy the latest 2019 products from the leading brands.

There will be two children's tracks, while the Extreme Bike Battle will provide a chance to see stunts from across the BMX and MTB world – with the UK's number one BMX ranked rider Lee Musselwhite on hand to demonstrate. For tickets, visit cycleshow.co.uk

Robinson the star as Brewood clinch T20

BEN Robinson starred with both bat and ball as Brewood were crowned Staffs Clubs T20 Knockout champions. He blasted 42 from 38 balls to rescue his team after they had been reduced to 38-6 batting first.

Brewood's total of 136-8 from their 20 overs eventually proved sufficient thanks chiefly to Robinson, who finished with figures of 5-21 from his four overs.

Despite skipper Sajid Nazir hitting 28 from 24 balls to open Whittington's reply, their innings eventually petered out to finish 111-9, some 25 runs short.

James Evans had earlier taken 3-21 as Whittington assumed early control at Vicarage Road. But things then took a dramatic turn once Robinson had arrived at the crease.

Aldridge clinched the second XI title with a 10-wicket win over Wednesbury. Wednesbury were limited to 108-8. Imran Bashir then hit an unbeaten 71 from 40 balls as Aldridge chased down the target in 11.4 overs.

Sport

Just oar-some! Club has paddle power

Page 31

Visitors seal win with try in injury time

Harborne 22 Wednesbury 29

AN INJURY-time try sealed the win for Wednesbury.

A hard game was expected as Harborne had won by a big margin the week before, while Wednesbury triumphed by a single point.

Harborne opened the scoring two minutes into the game with a converted try. A Matt Dale penalty got Wednesbury on the board.

Wednesbury kept Harborne pegged in their own half, but failed to capitalise until 10 minutes before the break. Lee Allwood raced over for the try and Dale added the conversion. More Wednesbury pressure paid off as Dale held the ball at the back of the maul before peeling off to score.

On 65 minutes, in trying to clear their line Harborne kicked straight into the arms of Wednesbury prop Dan Blake who ran over the line for the try, converted by Dale.

Harborne replied with a penalty and added a try when a Wednesbury kick was charged down.

Deep into injury time Wednesbury made the breakthrough, winger Ben Baker won the ball and ran over the line for the try, Dale added the conversion.

This weekend, Wednesbury take a break from league, entertaining Uttoxeter in the Staffs Owen Cup ko 2.30pm.

Wednesbury 2nds entertained last season's league champions Whittington, losing 10-29, with points from a try from Dom Weathers, converted by Nick McDaid and a Simon Wallace penalty.

Smethwick confirm highest placed finish in league's history

WEST Bromwich Dartmouth finished in third place in the Birmingham League Premier Division table with a comprehensive 186-run win over Moseley.

Andrew Umeed hit 117 in Dartmouth's 302-7 and Moseley crumbled to 116 all out, Sultan Afsal with 3-15.

In the battle for fourth place, Smethwick overcame Shrewsbury by four wickets in a run-fest at Broomfield. Ben Stebbings (86), Ed Foster (66) and Rob Foster (46) saw Shrewsbury to 294-6 but a commanding 148 not out from Amrinder Brar and 71 from Basit Zaman helped Smethwick to their highest finish since the league began in 1998. For the second time in three years, Berkswell are champions following their 117-run win over relegated Wolverhampton.

Old Hill finished their third division season in style with a crushing 157-run win over Redditch, who were all out for 133 in reply to 290-2. Zain Shahid (156) and Harry Baddams (80no) put together a 253 opening stand with Shahid smacking 20 fours and seven sixes.

Shafiq Ahmed, Zahid Kafiat and Naqaash Tahir all took three Redditch scalps.

Double Two racers claim title treble

Wright and Siviter with support teams

BLACK Country's Double Two Racing claimed their third title in as many years of endurance riding after once again dominating – and showing – their class.

Pete Wright and Martyn Siviter, backed by Track Prep Racing, have won virtually every round.

And, for round seven at Cadwell Park, Wright, from Tividale, and Siviter, from Blackheath, wrapped up the endurance No Limits Racing Club 600 class title with a round to spare. The final round takes place at Donington Park, October 6-7.

Wright finished the opening test day by beating his own lap record by 1.6 seconds, which set the team up nicely for qualifying.

Wright started the race and as the flagged dropped he got an absolute flyer, rising from 13th to fifth into the first turn.

Many of the 1,000cc machines soon grunted their way back past but Wright was still able to hold first in the Club 600 class. Pulling away from second place by more than two seconds a lap, the team was building up a big lead.

Following their fastest pit stop of the year – 19 seconds – Siviter steadily increased the gap, building a cushion of 73 seconds before another super-slick transponder change sent Wright back out.

Siviter was sent off again 45 minutes later and was able to bring home the race and championship.

BOSS CALLS ON WHOLE SQUAD

BAGGIES boss Darren Moore is ready to call on his squad in the busy weeks ahead after being impressed by his substitutes in the derby draw with Birmingham.

Albion were distinctly second-best at St Andrew's in a 1-1 draw on Friday night, but improved late on ahead of a run of six games in 19 days – starting with Tuesday's home clash with Bristol City.

Moore was looking for an improvement at The Hawthorns, where before Tuesday night they had won their last four games.

"I thought when Gareth (Barry) came on, he and Hal (Robson-Kanu) brought more composure to the team," said Moore. "And we fashioned a couple of chances at the end of the game that might have been cruel on Birmingham had we converted them."

Shape

"Whatever players we chop and change, it's like for like for me. It's quality for quality. They keep each other sharp. We'll pick a shape, formation and system that we think will win the game.

"Whichever combination we decide to go with, we know they possess good talent."

Moore has also added Wes Hoolahan to his midfield arsenal after snapping up the 36-year-old playmaker on a short-term contract.

"He's a fantastic acquisition to the squad who will excite the Albion fans," added Moore. "He's an intelligent player, technically gifted, and he'll give the team another dimension."

Hoolahan has been brought in as competition and cover for 20-year-old Harvey Barnes, raising questions over James Morrison's position in the pecking order. Albion's longest serving player has only started one league game this season and has missed the last two with a groin strain.

Dwight Gayle is denied as the Albion striker tries to chip Blues keeper Lee Camp

Meanwhile, penalty hero Sam Johnstone is confident the Baggies have the talent to play the ball out from the back.

Albion's keeper saved Jota's spot-kick on the half-hour mark. Jota had given Blues the lead before Matt Phillips levelled. But the Baggies were fortunate to come away from St Andrew's with a point after a series of errors at the back gifted the hosts possession in dangerous areas. Johnstone, though, believes the risks are worth the rewards when Albion's new passing game does click.

"If you're going to play with the ball you have to take risks," said Johnstone. "In football generally you have to take risks.

"We've got the players to play out from the back. Ultimately we have to be a bit cleaner and a bit better with our passing. When that comes, I think we'll be very dangerous."

Pride shown by Heathens despite loss

CRADLEY team boss Will Pottinger admitted he was "extremely proud" of his side as they went down with a fight in the National Trophy final.

The Heathens were facing almost Mission Impossible at Mildenhall after losing the first leg at home by 12 points. The Fen Tigers completed the double with a 49-41 win but Pottinger's lads made the home side battle all the way.

He said: "It was always going to be the impossible job. The 12-point deficit was a mountain to climb but after going 18-6 down after just four heats the destination of the trophy was never in doubt.

"But we kept fighting and I was delighted with the spirit. I'm extremely proud of how they dug in and we actually won the second half of the meeting.

"We kept it down to eight points and the 5-1 in the last race was an excellent way to finish our season. I think we go away with our heads held high after an excellent performance all round."

The Heathens were 27-9 down after just six heats and it looked as if Mildenhall were going to run up a cricket score. But Nathan Stoneman and Tom Brennan hit back with a 4-2 over wonderkid Drew Kemp in heat seven and the mini-fightback began. Alfie Bowtell and Stoneman also teamed up for two late 5-1s as the Heathens went down in style.

Mildenhall 49: Ben Morley 9+1, Drew Kemp 9, Jordan Jenkins 9, Ryan Kinsley 7+2, Matt Marson 7+1, Sam Bebee 6+2, Josh Bailey 2.

Cradley 41: Nathan Stoneman 14+2, Alfie Bowtell 10+1, Jason Edwards 7, Tom Brennan 6, Richard Andrews 3+1, James Chattin 1.

Brummies' renewed hopes for play-offs

BIRMINGHAM bosses are working overtime behind the scenes ahead of their crucial National League trip to leaders Mildenhall on Sunday (3pm).

The Edwards Plumbing Brummies dropped out of the top four following Coventry's home win over Buxton on Monday, but defeat to Mildenhall in the second part of the Bees' double-header gave Birmingham renewed hope of reaching the play-offs.

Boss Laurence Rogers had feared "it was not meant to be" after Sunday's meeting at Buxton was abandoned with the Edwards Plumbing Brummies 18-12 ahead with five races gone.

★★★

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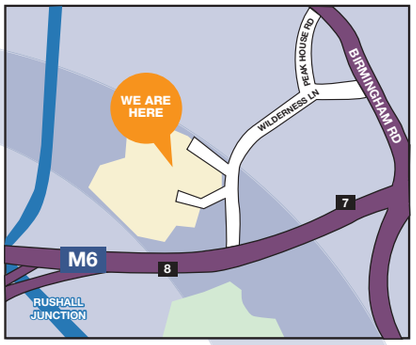

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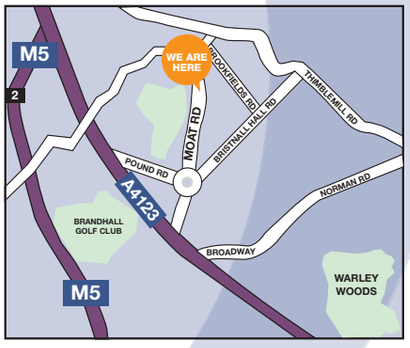

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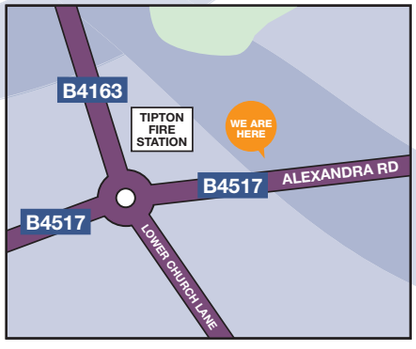
We look forward to welcoming you **Keziah Featherstone - Head of School**



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"We are extremely pleased and excited to be given the opportunity to expand the Q3 Academies Trust. When young people leave Q3, we are determined that they will have the qualities, academic success and interests that will enable them to enjoy life and make a positive contribution to their community."

Dr Caroline Badyal - Chief Executive Q3 Academies Trust

ACADEMIES

ACADEMIES TRUST

"WE HAVE AN OUTSTANDING TEAM OF STAFF WHO WORK TIRELESSLY TO CHALLENGE EVERY STUDENT TO BE THE 'BEST'; THEY HAVE EXCEPTIONALLY HIGH EXPECTATIONS OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE."

The Q3 Academies Trust is committed to educating the whole child, underpinned by Christian values.

Dr Caroline Badyal, Chief Executive, said: "Our name 'Q3' embodies our ethos: to seek for that which is good, right and true. The Q3 Family currently has three Academies in the Trust, Q3 Academy Great Barr and Q3 Academy Langley; and in September we welcomed Q3 Academy Tipton into the Trust. All Academies are vibrant and exciting places to learn and grow, where we strive for excellence in all that we do.

"There is a relentless focus on high quality teaching and enrichment opportunities for every young person who joins the Q3 Academies Trust.

"Our academic achievements are impressive, and to support this we focus on character development and have high expectations of behaviour.

"Pastoral care is exceptional and the excellent relationships are a striking feature of our work, as we help students to develop mutual respect, empathy and care for others.

"We recognise that education is also about nurturing talent and every young person is encouraged to engage in the wide range of activities on offer across the Q3 Academies Trust.

"We have an outstanding team of staff who work tirelessly to challenge every student to be the 'best'; they have exceptionally high expectations of our young people.

"When students leave our Academies we are determined that they will have the qualities, academic success and interests that will enable them to enjoy a successful and enriched life.

"You can only begin to understand our passion and commitment to excellence by visiting our Academies; your choice of secondary education will be such an important decision for you and your child.

"We look forward to welcoming you to our Academies and showcasing the work of the Q3 family."

ACADEMY GREAT BARR

GREAT BARR

Mr Mark Arnull, Head of School,

"Our philosophy is simple. We want every child to feel happy and excited about coming to school. Only when each child feels secure and comfortable can we challenge them to grow and learn together.

"We want our students to return home telling their families of the memorable exciting learning experiences they have enjoyed.

"Experiences that make it easier to recall the detail necessary for exam success and experiences that develop their character as much as their academic potential.

"Only if our staff can say that what we provide is good enough for their own children is it good enough for yours and I'm proud to say this commitment to care, coupled with high academic ambition, is helping all our young people to flourish."

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Q3 Academies Trust. To seek for th

LANGLEY

Mr Peter Lee, Head of School,

"As we enter our third year, welcoming 240 new students into Year 7 in September 2018, we are very excited about the future of the Academy.

"Built on the site of the historic grammar school, but offering a new building boasting state-of-the-art facilities, our new, refreshing, innovative and rigorous curriculum has already attracted overwhelming interest both locally and nationally.

" Students will have an excellent transition from primary school, enabling all to make rapid progress as we have an unswerving belief that what happens at Key Stage 3 plays a vital part in a child's educational journey.

"Our unique Thursday afternoon offer of physical education and enrichment will ensure that students are given the time and space for building confidence, developing skills and trying a wide range of activities.

"In addition our innovative Hori7on curriculum means students are given the time and space for deeper learning in music, drama, P.S.H.E and computing."

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TIPTON

Q3 Academy Tipton is the newest member of the highly respected Q3 Academies Trust.

Head of School Keziah Featherstone

"We are investing not only in high quality resources but, more importantly, in passion, ambition and aspiration. We are determined to make this the flagship school of the area.

"Our approach is simple: students must feel happy and safe to thrive at school. Happy and safe in a suitable curriculum; happy and safe with brilliant specialist teachers; happy and safe as they come to and from school. Happy and safe children are able to learn without barriers, flourish academically, grow as individuals and move on to successful adult futures.

"Our ambitions for all children are unapologetically high - not only fantastic GCSE and A-level results, but we also nurture the love of sport, art, music, drama, public service and community spirit."

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hat which is good, right and true.....

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

Q3 ACADEMY

The Q3 journey began in September 2008 starting a new chapter in the education of students on the Great Barr site (formerly home to Dartmouth High School). Staff and students worked in the old Dartmouth building for 18 months. In April 2010 we opened the doors to a brand new state of the art building and celebrated the official opening in November with HRH, Prince Edward. Staff and students rose to the challenge and excitement of the new Academy, with Q3 recognised as the top performing school in Sandwell in 2012.

Our success and passion to reach more students in Sandwell resulted in the opening of our second Academy, Q3 Academy Langley, in September 2016.

Q3 Academy Langley is now entering its third year of operation and is the school of choice for children in the area.

Both Academies are oversubscribed with long waiting lists; this reflects our pursuit of excellence in all that we do. Our students are happy, ambitious, caring and resourceful, supported by a talented and highly skilled team of staff who always 'go the extra mile'.

In September, we welcomed Q3 Academy Tipton (formerly ACE Academy) to the family. We are delighted to be working with the staff, students and their families to ensure the Q3 standards, values and ethos become part of their daily routines.

GREAT BARR

Q3 ACADEMY GREAT BARR

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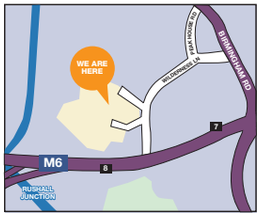

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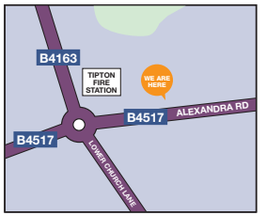

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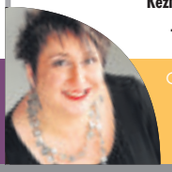

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